

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 2, 2015, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7CNpDVCopA>

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015 – 9:00 am**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– John Bair, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– John Bair, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Kirk Woodard, Vice-Chair   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Waterfowl Recommendations - 2016<br>– Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Gunnison Bend Reservoir<br>– Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions<br>– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline<br>And R657-5 Rule Amendments<br>– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. SER Deer Management Plans<br>– Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. CWMU Management Plans<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. Landowner Association Permit Number for 2016<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator                       | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. R657- 37 CWMU Rule Amendments<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator                                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 13. Conservation Permit Season Variance Request<br>– Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 14. Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Letter<br>– Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 15. Process and Procedure for Expo Contract/Board Meeting<br>– Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General                                  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 16. Other Business<br>– John Bair, Chairman  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

**Wildlife Board Motions**

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

**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: This will be presented during the November RAC meetings/December 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

**July 2016 - Target Date – Youth hunts on WMA's**

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log a listing of state youth hunts, their restrictions and preclusions on WMA's and the feasibility of closing these areas during youth hunts. The findings will be presented at the next upland game meeting.**

Motion made by: Byron Bateman

Assigned to: Jason Robinson

Action: Under Study

Status:

Placed on Action Log: August 27, 2015

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

October 1, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, October 1, 2015, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– John Bair, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– John Bair, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Kirk Woodward, Vice-Chair  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13<br>– Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator                       | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Hunting Technologies Discussion<br>– Rick Olson, Captain  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 7. Conservation Permit Annual Report<br>– Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief                               | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Conservation Permit Audit<br>– Mike Fowlks, Deputy Director   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Conservation Permit Allocation – 1 & 3 year<br>– Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief                     | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. 2016 RAC/Board Dates<br>– Staci Coons, Wildlife Board Coordinator                                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. Mexican Wolves<br>– Martin Bushman, Asst. Attorney General   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. Other Business<br>– John Bair, Chairman <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Winter WAFWA</li></ul> | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

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

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
October 1, 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 Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

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

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the August 27, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.**

3) Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Fishing Recommendations and Rule R657-13 as presented by the Division.**

4) Conservation Permit Annual Report (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the findings of the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented by the Division.**

5) Conservation Permit Audit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the findings of the Conservation Permit Audit as presented.**

6) Conservation Permit Allocation – 1 & 3 year (Action)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Allocation for 1 & 3 year as presented by the Division.**

7) 2016 RAC/Board Dates (Action)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve 2016 RAC/Board Dates as presented by the Division.**

8) Mexican Wolves (Action)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we support a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service from the Wildlife Board that includes the following four points: identify historic range, replace some committee members with neutral members, select neutral meeting location, and recover Mexican wolves exclusively south of Interstate 40.**

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
October 1, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
[http://wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/board\\_minutes/audio/15-10-1.mp3](http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/15-10-1.mp3)

**Wildlife Board Members Present**

John Bair – Chair  
Kirk Woodward – Vice Chair  
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec  
Mike King  
Calvin Crandall  
Byron Bateman  
Donnie Hunter  
Steve Dalton

**RAC Chairs Present**

Central – Richard Hansen  
Southern – Kevin Bunnell  
Southeastern – Chris Wood  
Northeastern – Randy Dearth  
Northern – John Cavitt

**Division Personnel Present**

Mike Fowlks	Justin Dolling	Paul Birdsey
Mike Canning	Chris Wood	Karen Caldwell
Staci Coons	John Fairchild	Richard Hepworth
Rory Reynolds	Kevin Bunnell	Krystal Tucker
Mike Christensen	Boyde Blackwell	Ben Nadolski
Drew Cushing	Roger Wilson	Greg Hansen
Martin Bushman	Tony Wood	Debbie Marchese
Bill Bates	Anita Candelaria	Trina Hedrick
Kenny Johnson	Lindy Varney	Craig Schaugaard
Rick Olson	Mike Slater	Mark Hadley
Kim Hersey	Justin Shannon	Mike Styler
Monson Shaver		

**Public Present**

Ron Camp	Chris Carling	Melissa Kemp
Ken Strong, SFW	Don Peay	Jason Hawkins
Jon Larson, SFW		Lee Tracy, UWC
Miles Moretti, MDF		

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:03:45 – 00:04:15 of 03:24:40**

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

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

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:04:17 – 00:04:53 of 03:24:40**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the August 27, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.**

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) **00:04:55 – 00:05:07 of 03:24:40**

None

4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:05:09 – 00:31:16 of 03:24:40**

Greg Sheehan acknowledged the technical staff for assisting with the board meetings, providing audio and webcasting support. He also thanked the communication team.

He updated the Board on the federal announcement not to list sage-grouse, the status of the Expo permit RFP, aquatic invasive species, fall deer hunts, Saturday opener of the duck hunt, upcoming meeting on recovery of Mexican wolves, the conclusion of the elk committee to develop a statewide plan, fishing, and upland game hunts. He also announced that the aquatics section chief, Roger Wilson, will be retiring at the end of December.

Kirk Woodward expressed his appreciation for the COR program that extended hunt days for a disabled young man in Vernal which enabled him to take a two-point deer.

5) Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (**Action**) **00:31:16 – 01:11:06 of 03:24:40**

Drew Cushing presented the fishing guidebook and rule R657-13.

**Board Questions 00:44:34 – 00:52:30**

The Board asked about the kokanee regulation pertaining to water bodies, the mobile fishing app, and preventative measures on harassment of kokanee during spawning season.

**Public Questions 00:52:36 – 00:56:20**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**RAC Recommendations 00:56:32 – 01:01:02**

All RACs passed the Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13. Central RAC had one abstention. Southern RAC recommended an emergency limit suspension on lakes and reservoirs with a high likelihood of winter kill.

**Public Comments 01:01:04 – 01:04:16**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**Board Discussion 01:04:17 – 01:12:48**

Calvin Crandall asked if regulations could help address interest in the use of corn as bait. Mike King asked about DWR's stance on Southern RAC's proposal about winter kill.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Fishing Recommendations and Rule R657-13 as presented by the Division.**

Greg Sheehan commented further on DWR's app and future editions.

6) **Hunting Technologies Discussion (Information) 01:12:48 – 2:10:58 of 03:24:40**

Rick Olson opened the discussion on hunting technologies.

**Board and RAC Questions 01:39:12 – 01:48:04**

Greg Sheehan gave some background that brought about this topic.

The RACs had lengthy discussions – the impacts of harvest, wounding, etc. Many expressed concern about the additional use of power scopes on muzzle loaders.

Mike King pointed out that the fisheries RAC meeting in the southeast region was poorly attended thus input from the public was minor, but the RAC members had a lively discussion amongst themselves.

**Public Questions/Comments 01:48:06 – 01:57:19**

Public questions and comments were accepted at this time.

**Board Discussion 01:57:20 – 02:10:58**

The Board discussed recommendations based on the survey as well as other considerations. They touched on unintended impacts and consequences and preventative measures in creating new weapons or augmenting capabilities of existing weapons. Chairman Bair expressed his opinion on weapons and usage.

7) **Conservation Permit Annual Report (Action) 02:12:33 – 02:26:35 of 03:24:40**

Bill Bates presented the annual report for the conservation permits.

**Board and RAC Questions/Discussion 02:17:13 – 02:26:35**

The Board discussed acreage of habitat improvement in the state compared to other states and the ability to accomplish much needed projects/research as a result of the conservation permit program. There needs to be a greater outreach effort to the public about the program – purpose, goals, and achievements.



John Cavitt asked if funding can be or has been used for land acquisition.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the findings of the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented by the Division.**

8) Conservation Permit Audit (Action) 02:26:36 – 02:44:00 of 03:24:40

Mike Fowlks presented the conservation permit audit.

**Board/RAC Questions 02:33:00 – 02:37:30**

The Board asked about interest accrual in the accounts, who receives it, and how it's applied. There was also some discussion on percentage disbursements and project allocations once permits are sold, and project time limits.

**Public Comments 02:37:31 – 02:43:28**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**Board Discussion 02:43:30 – 02:44:00**

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the findings of the Conservation Permit Audit as presented.**

9) Conservation Permit Allocation – 1 & 3 year (Action) 02:44:18 – 03:01:50 of 03:24:40

Bill Bates presented the conservation permit allocation for one and three year.

**Board/RAC Questions 02:51:56 – 02:56:58**

The board and RAC asked about remaining permits and the number of multi-season permits allotted to the conservation permit program.

**Public Comments 02:57:00 – 03:00:50**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**Board Discussion 03:00:51 – 03:01:50**

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Allocation for 1 & 3 year as presented by the Division.**

10) 2016 RAC/Board Dates (**Action**) **03:02:00 – 03:05:20 of 03:24:40**

Staci Coons presented the 2016 RAC/Board dates.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve 2016 RAC/Board Dates as presented by the Division.**

11) Mexican Wolves (**Action**) **03:05:21 – 03:23:15 of 03:24:40**

Martin Bushman presented the Mexican wolves issue.

**Board Questions/Discussion 03:11:16 – 03:20:44**

The Board asked for justification of keeping the wolves south of I-40; who is collaborating with the letters; will the letter clearly state their stance on the issue; and if actions from other states, namely Arizona, would affect the Board's action.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we support a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service from the Wildlife Board that includes the following four points: identify historic range, replace some committee members with neutral members, select neutral meeting location, and recover Mexican wolves exclusively south of Interstate 40.**

**Public Comments 03:20:45 – 03:23:15**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

12) Other Business (**Contingent**) **03:23:18 – 03:23:24 of 03:24:40**

The Board discussed the upcoming winter WAFWA conference in San Diego. The conference runs January 7-10, 2016. Byron Bateman will attend for the Board.

**REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS  
NOVEMBER 2015**

**WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS 2016**

NRO, CRO, SERO, NERO:

**MOTION-**Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Waterfowl Recommendation and Rule Amendments 2016 as presented.

**MOTION PASSES-** Unanimous

SRO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments 2016 as presented with the exception to clarify the Gunnison Bend closure to be the high watermark.

**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** That the Director make an emergency change to clarify the Gunnison Bend closure to the high watermark prior to the 2016 Snow Goose hunt.

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Unanimous

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**STATEWIDE ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS**

NRO, CRO, SRO

**MOTION:** To accept Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

NERO

**MOTION:** To accept Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented.

**VOTE:** Passed 5-4

SERO

**MOTION:** To accept revisions to the statewide elk management plan as presented with the addition that youth 17 years of age and younger be given preference for antlerless elk permits in the drawing.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL 2016 SEASON DATES, APPLICATION TIMELINE & R657-5  
RULE AMENDMENTS**

NRO

**MOTION-** Recommend the Wildlife Board not modify the scope magnification beyond 1 power on muzzleloaders.

**MOTION PASSES-** For: 7 Against: 5

**MOTION-** Adjust the West Cache Urban Deer extended archery boundary to accommodate landowner concerns by shifting the boundary to state road 142.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous

**MOTION-** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the adjustments 1- Box Elder West pronghorn unit east boundary to align with Box Elder Pilot Mountain elk and rocky mountain big horn sheep eastern unit boundary. 2- Box Elder Snowville pronghorn unit, southern boundary to the road paralleling the Union Pacific rail road grade. 3- Box Elder Snowville pronghorn eastern unit boundary description change shoreline to high water mark and or fixed elevation.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous

**MOTION-** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the remainder of Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous

#### CRO

**MOTION:** To not allow scopes with increased magnification on muzzleloaders  
Passed 10 to 1

**MOTION:** To add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Wasatch Unit

**MOTION PASSES** 10 in favor, 1 abstention (Alan White, stated that he didn't fully understand the reason for the hunt, and as a landowner, he thinks there are too many hunters already and this motion would add more hunters)

**MOTION:** To add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Manti unit

**MOTION PASSES** 8 to 2, 1 abstention (Alan White, same reason)

**MOTION:** To accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented

**MOTION PASSES** unanimously

#### SERO

**MOTION** 1) That the Division look into revising big game season dates as a whole with the goal of moving archery seasons to September to improve opportunity and prevent meat spoilage.

**MOTION PASSES** with two opposing votes (9-2)

**MOTION** 2) That the muzzleloader scope regulation be left unchanged.

**MOTION PASSES** with three opposing votes (8-3)

**MOTION** 3) Prohibit the attachment of electronic range finders on bows

**MOTION PASSES** with four opposing votes (7-4)

**MOTION** 4) That the Division look at all hunt boundaries and remove all national parks from the hunt boundary descriptions and maps.

**MOTION PASSES** with four opposing votes (7-4)

**MOTION** 5) That the Central Mountains-Manti deer unit boundary be changed to

include the Green River valley.  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously

**MOTION 6)** That the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments be accepted as presented with the inclusion of all aforementioned motions.  
**MOTION PASSES** with one opposing vote (10-1)

**NERO** **MOTION** To accept DWR's plan as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES** 8-1

**SRO** **MOTION:** To accept Bucks, Bulls, & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline & R657-5 Rule Amendments as presented with the exception to simplify the regulations on sabots and combine the goat hunts into a single season hunt that starts in September and ends in November.  
**AMENDMENT TO MOTION:** To include in the mid-season elk hunts the Wasatch and Manti units.  
**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Passes 9: 3  
**VOTE:** Passes 11:1

#### **SER DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS**

NRO, CRO, SERO, SRO  
**MOTION:** To accept SER Deer Management Plans as presented.  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**NERO** **MOTION:** To accept SER Deer Management Plans as presented.  
**VOTE:** Passes 8-1 abstention

#### **CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**NRO** **MOTION-**Recommend the Wildlife Board accept CWMU Management Plans as presented and remove the deer for 2016 from the Jacobs Creek CWMU as requested.  
**MOTION PASSES-** Unanimous

**SERO** **MOTION:** To accept the CWMU Management Plan as presented, except that two additional bull permits be granted to the Scofield Canyons CWMU.  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously

**CRO** **MOTION:** To accept CWMU Management Plans as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES** Unanimous

SRO           **MOTION:** To accept CWMU Management Plans as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES** Unanimous (1 abstained)

SERO           **MOTION** on the West Willow Creek CWMU to accept as presented  
**MOTION PASSES** 7-2 abstentions  
Tim Ignacio: Abstain because I don't agree with the dates on the length of the tags.  
Daniel Davis: Abstain because of public property included in the unit  
**MOTION:** On Blue Mountain Mulies to accept the Wildlife Board's denial for this year but allow Jed to clean up some of the issues with the boundary and allow him to reapply next year in a different format without the other factors such as violations.  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously  
**MOTION** to accept the rest of the CWMU management plans as presented  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously

#### **LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2016**

NRO, CRO, SERO, SRO  
**MOTION:** To accept Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous

NERO           **MOTION** to allow nine elk tags on the Book Cliffs LOA this year for the next three years and deal with the other one Mustang Ridge when it comes in for elk.  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously  
**MOTION** to approve the remaining Division's recommendations  
**MOTION PASSES** unanimously

#### **CWMU RULE AMENDMENTS R657-37**

NRO, CRO, SERO, NERO  
**MOTION:** To accept CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous

SRO           **MOTION:** To accept CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 as presented.  
**MOTION PASSES:** Unanimous (1 abstained)

**Northern Regional Advisory Council**

November 10, 2015  
Weber State University  
Ogden, Utah

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:01 p.m.**

**RAC Present**

John Blazzard- Agric.  
John Cavitt- Chair  
Joel Ferry- Agric.  
Matt Klar- At Large  
Mike Laughter- Sportsman  
Russ Lawrence- At Large  
Justin Oliver- At Large  
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.  
Robert Sanchez- Forest Service  
Bruce Sillitoe-BLM  
Bryce Thurgood- At Large  
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman  
John Wall- At Large

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Chad Wilson  
Rick Olson  
Justin Shannon  
Blair Stringham  
Guy Wallace  
Justin Dolling  
Dave Rich  
Darren Debloois  
Jim Christensen  
Randy Wood  
Scott McFarlane  
Scott Walker  
Wyatt Buback

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman

**RAC Excused**

Kevin McLeod- At Large

**RAC Unexcused**

Chad Jensen- Elected

**Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Sept 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
Old Business  
Regional Update  
Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2016  
Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions  
Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline And R657-5 Rule Amendments  
SER Deer Management Plans  
CWMU Management Plans  
Landowner Association Permit Number for 2016  
R657- 37 CWMU Rule Amendments

### **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

John Cavitt- If there is no objection, the agenda for tonight's meeting will be approved as presented. There being no objection, the agenda for tonight's meeting has been approved.

### **Item 2. Approval of Sept 8, 2015 Minutes**

Everyone should have received a copy of the minutes. Are there any question on the minutes? If there is no objection, the minutes will be approved as circulated. Seeing none, the minutes are approved as circulated.

### **Item 3. Old Business**

-John Cavitt, RAC Chair

Wildlife Board Update- Had a meeting October 1st. Fishing guidebook and R657-13 approved unanimously. Conservation permit annual reports, audit and permit allocation approved unanimously. Set 2016 RAC and Board dates on DWR website. Action item was a request to submit a letter to the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Mexican wolves. It was a multi-state effort that the board signed on to.

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

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Aquatics- Weber River Confluence conference coming up. Weber river protection. Reservoir fish habitat partnership meeting to create habitat for primarily fish in reservoir environments. Pineview will be good fishing for crappie. Blacksmith Fork and Weber fishing very well. White fish run will start at Bear Lake in early December.

Habit Section- Projects in West Box Elder with juniper removal and aerial seeding. Generating projects for upcoming season.

Wildlife Section- Deer post season classifications. Plans to release 500 pheasants each week.

Outreach- Special needs Eagle Scout project at Kaysville Pond November 14th. Elk Festival will be on Dec 12 at Hardware Ranch. Biathlon event with muzzleloaders.

Law Enforcement- Good participation in Pheasant hunt. Wesley Shelby in Coalville and Jordan Hastings in East Box Elder.

Great Salt Lake Eco-System- Brine Shrimp harvest season under way. Waterfowl season started out slow.

### **Item 5. Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2016**

- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Matt Klar- Is the falconry limitation federal or state regulated?

Blair Stringham- It is also federal regulated. They have different requirements as far as possession and bag limits.



## **RAC Comments**

Joel Ferry- Thank Blair for his hard work. A lot of changes being made to the waterfowl season. I support this.

Bryce Thurgood- Second that. Have accommodated and made everyone happy.

John Cavitt- Received letter this week from the Chesapeake Duck Club. They indicated their support for these changes.

## **Motion**

**Motion-** Russ Lawrence- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Waterfowl Recommendation and Rule Amendments 2016 as presented.

**Second-** Joel Ferry

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

## **Item 6. Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions**

- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

See RAC Packet

## **Public Questions**

Robert Byrnes- During your meetings, did you talk about widening the age objective classes so it would not be so hard to manage for half a year? Did you talk about maybe reducing the number of classes? You said you wanted to stay with 4. On your slide, it was talking about age objectives of 4.75 and 6.75. Did you just average your two ends to get that value? Is that correct?

Justin Shannon- Yes. The conversations about widening age objective classes did not come up. The Division is comfortable with the half age objective. As far as having 4 limited entry units, we did talk about that. There was talk about doing without the 5 year old age class. As we talked about it, there is some advantages to having some of these units stay as limited entry even though we are not managing for top end quality. We felt like by keeping that, we have more flexibility with season dates. That was the biggest reason to keep some of these at 4 1/2 ad 5.

## **RAC Questions**

Russ Lawrence- Looking at the habitat management and watershed restoration, I am assuming a lot of that is summer range improvements rather than winter range?

Justin Shannon-Yes.

Russ Lawrence- You also looked at impacts to other wildlife species as well while looking at those considerations?

Justin Shannon- We did. There are some strategies to look at aspen and those types of summer range related areas. We felt like if we could improve habitat statewide on elk winter ranges, other species would benefit.

Russ Lawrence- Aspen regeneration is a big deal. How to do that is challenging at times. Thanks for those considerations.

Bryce Thurgood- Mid season hunter opportunity. Who decides that and how soon will it be implemented.

Justin Shannon- The next presentation will have some of that information.

Bruce Sillitoe- Happy to see one of the strategies to increase youth participation. When having that conversation, did the idea of adding bonus points for youth hunts that don't draw, come up? Then those youth that are trying to participate would have a better chance.

Justin Shannon- I think it is more of a concept. We are making decisions over the next 7 years and including the youth as best as we can. There were no specific strategies. It was more of a hunter recruitment and retention.

Bryce Thurgood- Would you meet annually and review that and then make more recommendations to the elk advisory committee?

Justin Shannon- You are talking about the early October hunts?

Bryce Thurgood- Yes.

Justin Shannon- There are concerns about having limited entry hunts with spike hunters, does that provide law enforcement conflicts? I don't have all the answers but there are concerns there. Some of that was discussed, a lot was discussed internally. We have to start and try it on some of these units. We get feedback from hunters and look at law enforcement concerns and complaints. Is it something that the public wants. If so, let's keep doing it. We need more information before rolling it out statewide.

### **Public Comment**

Robert Byrnes- We have a tight range on those in this management plan. We are usually over or under, very rarely are we right on. The management plan looks at trend which adds a little bit of a buffer. It would be nice if the age objectives were a little bigger. I recommend that the Wildlife Board approve the elk management plan as presented. In the future, maybe we can look at broadening those ranges so we are within our objective more often.

Troy Justensen- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the statewide elk plan with the exception of the Monroe. Our group has asked to leave the Monroe at the current age status.

LuAnn Shaffer- Evan O. Koller Revocable Living Trust- Meadowville is mostly private lands. Elk permit to hunt does not cut it. As a private land owner we have had so many problems with people trespassing whether there is elk or not. Signs are posted but they still come. Why is private land opened up to the general public to buy permits for that private land.

### **RAC Comment**

Mike Laughter- Did they say why they did not want the age objective on the Monroe to be lower? Was it to maintain quality age class bulls?

Troy Justensen- Yes.

### **Motion**

**Motion**-John Blazzard- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented.

**Second**- Joel Ferry

**Motion Passes**- Unanimous

### **Item 7. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline And R657-5 Rule Amendments.**

- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **Public Questions**

Robert Byrnes- Boundary changes in Box Elder. On the pronghorn, Box Elder West does not align with the elk and rocky mountain big horn sheep boundaries. Why is that and would it be acceptable to move them so they match? The southern boundary of the Snowville pronghorn is out in the mud flat and does not follow an established road which we have to the north along the railroad tracks. The eastern boundary of the Snowville pronghorn unit is described as the shoreline of the Great Salt Lake which we know is quite far east in areas where there is no trespassing. If the shoreline changes, maybe we should change the boundary description now while we are doing it.

Jim Christensen- With these boundaries, this pronghorn boundary follows the old Pilate mountain boundary. The elk and bighorn follow the old bighorn boundary. We could extend the pronghorn out but we just followed the old one.

Robert Byrnes- In that area, east of little pigeon mountain, there is habitat and water that is outside of this boundary. Is that correct?

Jim Christensen- Habitat and water for?

Robert Byrnes- Pronghorn.

Jim Christensen- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- On this Snowville boundary, it says the shoreline. I am not sure exactly what the definition of shoreline is. Right now, water is way out to the west. Would it be more appropriate to maybe describe this as an elevation or high water line?

Jim Christensen- We did follow an elevation on that. In definition, we could instead of calling it the shoreline, just put the elevation we are at. If an antelope is out there, it is basically all mud flat. The changes are slim that they are out there. I can't say it would never happen. We could change the wording to just put the elevation.

Kelly Hicks- Rule 657-5, clarify the Immigration Canyon within the proclamation. We need to make some type of language for the City Creek area as well. It is within Salt Lake County. There are a lot of issues within City Creek. They have specific rules within City Creek that you cannot archery hunt in certain areas. The issue is with the rifle people and the boundaries. There is no way for people to stop people from going into that canyon.

John Cavitt- This is the question period. We will get to comments in a second.

## **RAC Questions**

Mike Laughter- Would like a reason or explanation on the Laketown extended archery. You are on the south end of Laketown. Where do you want those deer to go?

Darren Debloois- We have had some issues in Laketown itself with deer and raspberries. They are not commercial operations.

Mike Laughter- Isn't this a late hunt?

Darren Debloois- For the extended archery season. The boundary is fairly tight.

Mike Laughter- Would there be mitigation on raspberries?

Darren Debloois- If they are in greenbelt and it is commercial, there would be. In this case it is not. We are also talking about flowers and gardens. If they can get the permission from landowners and permission to shoot within 600 feet of a dwelling, then a person could take an animal that is causing problems. The boundary is fairly tight. It is really just the Laketown area. We tried not to go up on the hill. It is just trying to address some concerns folks have in Laketown.

Mike Laughter- It is more of a PR hunt?

Darren Debloois- This is something we could do for them to try and address some of their concerns.

Justin Oliver- On eliminating the grouse creek unit. The archery hunt reason for that?

Justin Shannon- It is a migration issue when the elk are there. They don't tend to be there early in the season in the same densities. It did not provide a great hunt.

Jim Christensen- With the migrations, we typically will start seeing cows and calves in the grouse creek valley about the first to mid September. Bulls will start coming in mid September through October. Last year, we did not have any of the archery hunters be successful on that hunt. Every rifle and muzzleloader

including CWMU's were able to fill their bull tag. That is why we got rid of the archery hunt but then started proposing the mid season rifle hunt.

Justin Oliver- Would you increase the tags for the rifle?

Jim Christensen- We will probably keep tags the same. We could look at doing a slight increase in permit numbers but last year was when we really increased the number of tags. We will have to look at age objectives and the population of harvested bulls and determine off of that.

Bruce Sillitoe- I noticed that the magnification of muzzleloaders was greatly accepted. Did that survey break out how many muzzleloaders actually recommended that.

Justin Shannon- We did break it into those who hunted archery. One of the questions asked "what you would consider yourself"? There was never anything conflicting which is why we presented the results as a whole. The trends are always the same. If all hunters wanted it, it was generally the same with all those.

Bruce Sillitoe- I was curious about the difference in percentage. If there was a large percentage that wanted the magnification.

Justin Shannon- I can look that up.

Mike Laughter- I've got it, 57% for magnification.

Justin Shannon- It was 57% in favor and 39% opposed. I think he is asking if just muzzleloaders were asked and that is what I don't know off the top of my head. Do you have that Mike?

Mike Laughter- I do somewhere.

Russ Lawrence- On these new limited entry deer hunts for muzzleloader, how many tags are you thinking about issuing and do they come out of the allocated number of tags for that unit?

Justin Shannon- Last year, we had 6 units. Of those 6 units, we issued 46 total limited entry permits. I think it ranged anywhere from 3-10 on a unit. We are talking small amounts. As far as allocation, we are not taking general season permits and converting them to limited entry. You are just adding limited entry permits to it.

Kristin Purdy- Behind the proposal to add the magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders, is there any data from other states showing a before and after regarding the lethality of the muzzleloaders shot before scope and after? May be difficult data to track. I understand everything behind it that increases the lethality of the shot and not leaving wounded deer out there.

Justin Shannon- Not that I was able to find. We did look at other states. Rick, did we look at anything with scopes on muzzleloaders. Does other states have data saying it is more or less lethal?

Rick Olson- No.

Justin Shannon- I don't recall any either.

Robert Sanchez- Is there any reason why DWR is proposing that muzzleloader scope other than public support during the survey?

Justin Shannon- On this, it is a fairly social issue on how we want to harvest them. The bulk of general season are harvesting bucks for deer. The survey certainly drove a lot of that.

Mike Laughter- Could the magnified scope on a muzzleloader potentially, if it increases harvest, affect opportunity?

Darren Debloois- We will manage to the management plan for mule deer. That plan calls for buck to doe ratio. If scopes increase success, that would result in a permit decrease.

Mike Laughter- Which would ultimately reduce opportunity.

Craig VanTassell- Received emails. First was on management deer for bonus points for youth. It stated that if a youth was born before July 31st when he became 17, he would only have 3 points or if after July 31, you would have 4 bonus points. Those that have 4 bonus points get 50% of the tags that are allotted to that hunt. I wondered if that is the way it is or if we need to look at making that more equal.

Justin Shannon- I saw the emails. What is the question?

Craig VanTassell- It might be more of a comment. He had a couple of solutions. One was to keep the maximum points at 3 so everyone would have a chance at the 50%. Or else just not have bonus points at all.

Justin Shannon- It is certainly not fair. Restricting it to saying everyone can have 3, may not be the solution. If you never draw one of those youth tags, those bonus points are still bonus points. You can put in for elk later down the road. I would hate to cap it and say you can't obtain a bonus point.

Craig VanTassell- So they go past the 17 year?

Justin Shannon- Yes, it is like a limited entry bonus point. Even if you don't draw that youth permit, you are not out. You still get limited entry hunting opportunities down the road for max points. There is a discrepancy there. we decided on the definition as the July 31st deadline for good reason. There are no hunts going on. I don't know of a better date.

Craig VanTassell- Maybe you shouldn't give 50% to the 4 bonus points.

Justin Shannon- Maybe not have a bonus point, max points for youth. Just say everyone has a fair shake. Whether you have 3 or 4, you issue 50%. Is that what you are saying?

Craig VanTassell- I'm just saying the ones with 4 points shouldn't get 50% of the tags. Maybe you should do that and make it a lower percentage or something.

Justin Shannon- Certainly something for us to look at.

Craig VanTassell- The other email was concerning the limited entry muzzleloader hunts proposed. The data did not support 3 hunts. Fillmore, South Slope Yellowstone and Wasatch Mountain East.

Mike Laughter- He is saying the gentleman who sent the email is suggesting that you are not over objective. You would not qualify for the late muzzleloader hunt that had to be at or over objective to fall within the parameters of this hunt.

Justin Shannon- They did not include the 2014 buck to doe ratios. We had increases in buck to doe ratios in many of our units. The 6 units presented tonight, the 3 year average is exceeding 20 bucks per hundred does. If not, we wouldn't have proposed it.

Craig VanTassell- His data was not the most current data?

Justin Shannon- It is a year behind.

Matt Klar- The July 31 youth hunt at 17 year or younger is pretty uniform across the different types of hunting. Why is there a date discrepancy that they have to be 14 by December 31st? If that date was July 31st, everyone would have the same opportunity. What was the rationale for those two dates being different?

Justin Shannon- The December 31st date is set in the statute. It is not something the RAC or board can change. It is a legislative thing. Essentially that is saying if you are 13 years old after December 31st but turning 14, you can still apply for limited entry permits. It states when you can start applying for limited entry. I have the data on the earlier question on how many muzzleloader hunters supported the scopes. It was 59% that wanted scopes and 40% said no, 1% had no opinion.

Matt Klar- You have no clarification on the degree of magnification in the question?

Justin Shannon- We did not get into that. This first survey was just a lot of different issues. We did not put restrictions on the magnification power.

Bryce Thurgood- Kids in Utah can hunt at 12.

Justin Shannon- General season, yes.

Bryce Thurgood- Why can't they put in for youth tags or management tags? That does not make any sense.

Justin Shannon- They can put in for limited entry when they are 13, turning 14 that year. There is a two year discrepancy.

Bryce Thurgood- Why have that discrepancy? If you are letting them hunt at 12, why not let them hunt everything at 12?

Justin Shannon- I don't know.

Bryce Thurgood- That is not legislative but a division rule right?

Justin Shannon- I think that would fall more under our division rules. I don't have a good answer for that.

Bryce Thurgood- To give our kids more opportunity, I think it is ridiculous that two years they cannot put in for anything. We ought to maybe look at that.

Justin Shannon- I will follow up with you on that.

Justin Dolling- My memory tells me that the wildlife board made that rule change to not allow 12 year olds in the limited entry system until they were 14.

Matt Klar- The board may have some authority to move that December and July dates so that everybody has the same shot? Or is that statute?

Justin Shannon- The board does not have the ability to change the December 31st date but they do have the authority to change the July 31st date. No matter where you put that date, there are still those born before and after. We wanted to put that date in a place where no hunts were going. Starting in 2013, we started changing all of our rules so they can standardize it. Before this, the definition of youth was all over the place. We had to get some standardization to that.

John Blazzard- The youth can apply for the youth elk hunt if they are 17 before the end of December right? If they are 17 until the end of the year, they can still put in for that? Is there a reason why we don't have bonus points for those youth for the 3-4 years they are able to put in for that.

Justin Shannon- For the youth bull hunts, they can put in for limited entry elk hunt but then their points for the youth any bull hunt is a different one. It is not a limited entry hunt. They can put in for a Wasatch limited entry and a youth. If they don't ever draw a youth, they still have these points. It is not a true bonus point but it is tied specifically to that because it is an any bull hunt.

### **Public Comment**

Troy Justensen- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the divisions recommendations with the exception of the muzzleloader and magnification. SFW has decided to stand neutral on this. It is very heated and divided. We encourage our individual members to voice their opinion. On a personal note, I don't believe you are going to kill more deer but more in the back of your trucks. Whether they have magnification or not, they are still going to shoot but they will be more accurate where they shoot.

Bret Wursten- Letter and maps sent to RAC members earlier. Cache west extended archery hunt.

Trespassing issues on Koller Family private lands. Proposing that we create a new boundary which would be SR 142. That would be the southern boundary of the Koller Family Trust property. Everything to the south to be included.

Matt Klar- How much of that boundary change would include land that you don't own?

Bret Wursten- Probably 40% of lands in that Cache West extended archery hunt is the Koller Family Trust land. We would like the size of the unit reduced by 50%.

Bruce Sillitoe- Does the private landowners receive payment for damages?

Bret Wursten- That is another challenge. We do have some property that there are as many as 3 landowners people are coming across. That is the frustration from the bowhunters perspective. They cannot trespass adjacent landowners.

Bruce Sillitoe- So, is the private landowners receiving payment from DWR for damages caused by wildlife to their crops?

Bret Wursten- I don't know, you would have to ask Darren that. We would like to see landowners given litigation tags and allow those kinds of things to help that.

Darren Debloois- We work with the commercial operators on depredation. They do receive tags or payment for damages. The bulk of our private land depredation concerns are probably around Cornish at this time. There is a mechanism for that as well. This hunt was primarily set up to address concerns in Newton about deer coming into town. We would support this change. It still addresses concerns we had and probably not a biological or management reason to include that northern portion.

John Cavitt- The proposal you are making is to move the boundary onto state road 142?

Bret Wursten- Correct.

John Cavitt- That would be a southern boundary for that unit.

Bret Wursten- That would be the northern boundary for the unit but that is on our southern boundary which would help. It would not include any of our land.

Justin Oliver- Looking at the map, on both east and west, is that also private property as well?

Bret Wursten- The entire unit is 100% private. There is no public lands anywhere in this unit.

Justin Oliver- Ok.

Steve Sorensen- Support Koller Family Trust in changing these boundaries. Support this change in the fact that it is 100% agricultural land where they are trying to access deer. They should not have to deal with these trespassers.

LuAnn Shaffer- Evan O. Koller Revocable Living Trust- The trespassing on our ground is horrible. Since this extended archery hunt, it has been a nightmare. Either the DWR needs to act at educating these people that private land requires permission and they need to have a permission slip. Please make the boundary change.

Robert Byrnes- I ask in your recommendation to the Wildlife Board, that you adjust the Box Elder east boundary to match the boundary that you see here for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and elk. Also adjust the south boundary of the Box Elder Snowville pronghorn unit. The east boundary of that unit is described as a shoreline of the GSL, that should be described as an elevation or high water mark. As long as people can read the boundary. On the muzzleloader, my opinion is we don't need magnifying scopes on primitive weapons. I would be opposed to changing that language in the rule.

Bryce Thurgood- Box Elder west, if you align that with the elk and the sheep, that boundary goes into Nevada. You can't do that right?

Robert Byrnes- Lets look. Just the east boundary of the box elder west should align with the east boundary.

Bryce Thurgood- You just want to add approximately 6 miles?

Robert Byrnes- Yes. We are talking about paralleling boundaries.

Steve Sorensen- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- It is against the law to trespass on any agricultural land in the state of Utah unless you have written permission. Just wanted to clarify on that issue.

## **RAC Comments**

Mike Laughter- Where do we draw the line on what we call a hunt that was designed to be a primitive weapon hunt? It is to provide opportunity and provide less pressure and a time to go out and not see a bunch of guys. I think we are encouraging people to take longer shots and potentially injure more deer. I would put a limitation on it. I would recommend a 4 power for those who can't see. We can have the best of both worlds if that is what people want.

Matt Klar- I would second that line of thinking. I think having the one power scope is a disadvantage for a lot of people right now. At the last meeting, there was issues with obtaining disability COR's. If we did a four power scope, that would mitigate a lot of those problems but not open up Pandora's box.

Bryce Thurgood- Troy said there might not be more dead deer but more in the back of trucks. I agree with that but guys that are shooting 200 yards now, all the sudden are going to be shooting 500 yards with a scope. You are going to compound the problem. I would say we leave it the way it is.

John Blizzard- I see a lot of guys trying to shoot bows 70-90 yards. I think it is just the nature of the beast. I think that if someone with eyes who are getting to be like mine, I see no reason why having a scope on a muzzleloader would be any bigger of an issue than having a compound bow. We need to accommodate people and give opportunities they desire to have.

Bruce Sillitoe- I agree 100% that those of us with failing eyesight be allowed to have a scope. I agree with the current regulation which is a one power. I disagree with the multi-power scope. I suggest that before this regulation is changed that we look at that statistic. A lot of those I talked to did not know they could put a one power scope on their muzzleloader. Perhaps that questions did not clarify that they could put a scope on there.

Justin Oliver- My understanding is the one power scope is actually the glass with the crosshair in it, there is not magnification whatsoever. I'm not sure it would benefit someone with failing eyesight.

Bruce Sillitoe- Having used those, you are right. They don't magnify at all but makes a difference on what you can see.

Justin Oliver- I would hope that when we are looking at these types of hunts, we take into consideration the private ground. It seems foolish to include that in there and I don't know the reason behind it. We need to look for who the landowners are and if there is any benefit to it.

John Cavitt- I would like to recommend to the RAC that when you make a motion, if you have a particular motion or item within that big chunk, that we separate those out. We can handle multiple motions for this particular agenda item.

### **Motion**

**Motion-** Bruce Sillitoe- Recommend the Wildlife Board not modify the scope magnification beyond 1 power on muzzleloaders.

**Second-** Bryce Thurgood

**Motion Passes-** For: 7 Against: 5

Mike Laughter- Our sportsman spoke, we send out a survey and 57% wanted optics on their muzzleloaders. Trying to find a happy medium with the four power that I could meet their needs and not create a bigger problem with higher power scopes.

Justin Oliver- I second what he said.

Craig VanTassell- I agree. I think a four power is what I would like to see.

**Motion-** Matt Klar- Adjust the West Cache Urban Deer extended archery boundary to accommodate landowner concerns by shifting the boundary to state road 142.

**Second-** Justin Oliver

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

Thurgood- Would like to address what Robert said.

### **Motion**

**Motion-** John Blazzard- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the adjustments 1- Box Elder West pronghorn unit east boundary to align with Box Elder Pilot Mountain elk and rocky mountain big horn sheep eastern unit boundary. 2- Box Elder Snowville pronghorn unit, southern boundary to the road paralleling the Union Pacific rail road grade. 3- Box Elder Snowville pronghorn eastern unit boundary description change shoreline to high water mark and or fixed elevation.

**Second-** Matt Klar

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Motion-** John Blazzard- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the remainder of Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second-** John Wall

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

### **Item 8. SER Deer Management Plans**

- Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager

See RAC Packet

### **Motion**

**Motion-** Mike Laughter- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept SER Deer Management Plans as presented.



**Second-** Craig VanTassell  
**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

### **Item 9. CWMU Management Plans**

- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Kristin Purdy- Could you briefly describe the process you go through to get approval or disapproval once you have an application for a new CWMU or change application.

Scott McFarlane- It is quite a process. Originally, it will go to the region who does the majority of screening process. They have to look at if it meets the requirements and rules. It meets the minimum acreage for permits requested. They look at the landowners and properties. They look through court records to make sure the properties enrolled qualify and are in fact owned by those signing for them. The entire process is a 16 page application.

Kristin Purdy- What about the appropriateness of permit numbers depending on game harvested there.

Scott McFarlane- That is taken into consideration. If it is a limited entry unit, they all come from the same pool of permits. There is a limited number of permits in the draw. There is a policy and procedure we go through. If you look at the percentage of habitat with the percentage of property enrolled in the CWMU is actually the percentage we use to qualify them for. We can make adjustments due to increased use for agricultural damage. Basically, it is a percentage of habitat in the unit. General season units, we make sure it is not an excessive amount.

Justin Oliver- What constitutes the ability of a CWMU to extend their dates to the 30th?

Scott McFarlane- For the elk season variance?

Justin Oliver- Yes.

Scott McFarlane- The rule says they need to demonstrate the need to have it. They submit a letter that goes with the application demonstrating that need. The region then looks at that and they approve that.

Bryce Thurgood- Why did all of them only request one extra permit? If they go to two, that would kick in an extra public permit.

Scott McFarlane- Not necessarily. If they have a 90/10 split and they have 6 private permits and one public permit, a lot of it is response to increased populations. They may only want to harvest because of their management plan. They want to keep quality and feel they can harvest one more bull. Once they reach that 10, the 11th would go to the public. Generally, it is in response to populations.

Justin Oliver- One of the units I am looking at, they chose to go from the 90/10 to 80/20. That is good of them but why?

Scott McFarlane- It think you are referring to the Heartland West. I guess they did that out of the goodness of their heart. They just offered another public permit. That is their donation basically. They didn't need to do that but they chose that.

Justin Oliver- I was impressed with that. Things like that give a little better name to CWMU's and it also makes you look closer when they come with some of these requests.

Scott McFarlane- I agree with you.

### **Public Comment**

Justin Richins- Jacobs Creek CWMU- Ask that we resend our deer on our unit. We have been working with DWR and UWC Wildlife committee to come up with a boundary. We do have some boundary issues

on the north and south of the property that will work. I believe we all felt like it was too rushed. It would benefit the CWMU program. Would like to come up with a better boundary that would work for everyone. We would like to pull our 20 deer tags out of the unit for the time being?

John Cavitt- Was that not in your presentation. The recommendations for Jacobs Creek that he just made?

Scott McFarlane- Originally, that was not in the presentation. It came after this was already sent to the RAC and board. He was told we cannot change our recommendation right now but he can approach the RAC and ask for it. For the area biologist, we are in agreement that is an acceptable thing to drop the deer from the CWMU at this point. But it was not in the original recommendation. The original recommendation was to deny the land exchange that they have proposed on forest service lands. They have withdrawn their original request as of tonight. Their request for an additional 10 bull elk permits, the division is in agreement with that. If you would like to drop the deer from it, we would be in agreement also.

Justin Oliver- Received a phone call concerning some of the extensions of the hunt to that extra time. Would it be possible to increase the number of permits without having to extend the date? We are hunting from September 1st to November 30th. Can we accomplish the same thing by raising the numbers without extending the dates?

Scott McFarlane- I think the majority of the reason the CWMU's are requesting the extension is because of the migration of the animals and the timing of the animals being on their property. They provide valuable winter range for these animals. Earlier in the season, if they increase the number of permits and elk are not there, they can't take advantage of that. Some other reasons is just to provide a better hunt because of the timing of the elk being on some of these CWMU's.

Justin Oliver- If they have property higher on the mountain and they are trying to manage the CWMU as the animals leave.

Scott McFarlane- This is where the biologist in negotiation with the CWMU's should be taking this into consideration. Everyone is drawing from the same pool of animals. That is where they number the limit the numbers that are harvested on these CWMU's. One part on the application has them identify any adverse impacts to neighboring landowners.

### **Motion**

**Motion-** John Wall- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept CWMU Management Plans as presented and remove the deer for 2016 from the Jacobs Creek CWMU as requested.

**Second-** Craig VanTassell

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

### **Item 10. Landowner Association Permit Number for 2016**

- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **Motion**

**Motion-**Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Landowner Association Permit Number for 2016 as presented.

**Second-** Russ Lawrence

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

### **Item 11. R657- 37 CWMU Rule Amendments**

- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

See RAC Packet

**Motion**

**Motion**-Joel Ferry- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second**- John Blazzard

**Motion Passes**- Unanimous

Bryce Thurgood- Look at making a recommendation to the Wildlife Board to change the kids at 12 to be able to apply for all the hunts and not just a portion until they are 14. Can we put it on the agenda for December?

John Cavitt- That would have been part of the bucks and bulls. I could raise that to the Wildlife Board at the meeting. We did not vote on that particular item. We approved the remainder of the bucks and bulls as presented. I can make a statement to the effect that there was some concern about that particular issue at the meeting.

**Motion to adjourn**

If there is no further business and there is no objection, the meeting will be adjourned. There being no objection the meeting is adjourned.

**Meeting Ends- 9:33 p.m.**

## **Motion Summary**

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

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

### **Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments – 2016**

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions**

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To accept the proposal to allow the use of a scope greater than one power on muzzleloaders  
Failed unanimously

MOTION: To allow magnification on a muzzleloader with a maximum power of four  
Motion dies, lack of second

MOTION: To not allow scopes with increased magnification on muzzleloaders  
Passed 10 to 1

MOTION: To add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Wasatch Unit  
Passed 10 in favor, 1 abstention (Alan White, stated that he didn't fully understand the reason for the hunt, and as a landowner, he thinks there are too many hunters already and this motion would add more hunters)

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations  
Motion withdrawn

MOTION: To add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Manti unit  
Passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention (Alan White, same reason)

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

### **SER Deer Management Plans**

MOTION: To accept the southeastern and central management plans as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **CWMU Management Plans**

MOTION: To accept the CWMU management plans as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016**

MOTION: To accept the landowner association permit numbers for 2016 as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To approve the recommendations with the exception that family members should be allowed to apply for public permits for their own CWMU  
Failed 9 to 2

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented  
Passed 10 to 1

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville City Civic Center  
110 S Main Street, Springville  
November 12, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Ron Camp, Sportsmen  
Matt Clark, Sportsmen, excused  
Greg McPhie, Elected, excused

**Others Present**

John Bair, Wildlife Board Chairman

- 
- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

**VOTING**

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

- 2) **Old Business**  
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

none

- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**  
- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

**Aquatics**

- Close to 1.7 million fish have been stocked in Strawberry this year
  - 400,000 rainbows (8-inch avg), 300,000+ Bear Lake Cutthroats (3-inch avg) and 400,000 Kokanee salmon (3-inch avg) this fall
  - 600,000+ 8-inch cutthroats were stocked last spring,
- Jordanelle fishery management planning continues
- Mill Creek Restoration Project Phase III completed, BCT stocked in middle section
- Moving forward with the hiring process to fill Native Aquatic Biologist position
- Research proposal “Cutthroat Trout Stocking Survival – Strawberry Reservoir” submitted to research council
- AIS compliance at the Daniels Port of Entry 85-90%
- All water samples taken at Deer Ck since October negative for quagga

- Fish monitoring plan for Utah Lake due Nov. 30
- Tibble Fork Reservoir will be drained next April to allow for dam construction work (raised elevation)

#### Wildlife

- Several cities planning to take advantage of the new Urban Deer Control Administrative Rule
- Mountain goat transplant from Willard Peak population postponed until next year (moved 21 to the Dutton Unit, but weren't able to get 20 this year for Wasatch Front)
- Pheasant release going well, will vary the release days throughout the season
- Deer classification beginning now that the rut is on, contact biologists if you're interested
- Turkey trapping in several areas this winter

#### Habitat

- Wheeler Fire – 200-acre seeding completed
- Three guzzlers installed on West Hills, two more to go
- New parking area created at Burraston Ponds to access pheasant hunting area on north end
- West Desert guzzler maintenance took place earlier this week

#### Conservation Outreach

- 

#### Law Enforcement

- Nov. 14, new hire process begins for CO candidates
- Working with BLM and USFS LE to protect Sheepprock Mtns SGMA from off-road abuse
- New CO is Lorraine Hardy, replaces Ray in the Salt Lake District
- Will go through HR hiring process to fill vacant wildlife tech position in Wasatch County

#### 4) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendment -2016 (Action) - **Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator**

#### Questions from the RAC

#### Questions from the Public

#### Comments from the Public

#### RAC Discussion

#### VOTING

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

Seconded by Karl Hirst

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White, Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

#### 5) Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions (Action) - **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

#### Questions from the RAC

Danny Potts – I noticed the recommendation of allowing a person to have two cow elk tags but only one through the draw. Explain that a little bit.

Justin Shannon – Currently you can obtain two elk permits in Utah. One can be a bull and one can be a cow or just two cows but regardless you can only obtain one cow elk permit through the draw. What we want to do is increase the number of permits a hunter can obtain annually but we want to retain that portion that only one permit can be obtained through the draw. If you have been putting in for years and

you can't draw your cow elk and I draw two as a hunter, we just wanted to keep that more fair. There are other hunting opportunities over the counter.

Danny Potts – And also emergency herd control permits.

Justin Shannon – If I drew a cow and bought a spike permit and my neighbor had a mitigation voucher and wants my help harvesting an elk I'm out of opportunities.

Karl Hirst – You said appropriate units for mid season. What criteria did you use to select those units?

Justin Shannon – I don't know if we have good criteria yet. The goal is to start small. We are not going to apply it to every unit. Moving forward we want to try it on some small units that are isolated and maybe try it on a big unit. In the next presentation I will identify some of the units we are going to try it on. I think it can have some usefulness in units that have a lot of permits in them or you are just trying to distribute those permits more evenly on a limited entry hunt. We will start slow. My goal is to get the feedback from the hunters and see what they think, what they liked. Also internally making sure that our law enforcement conflicts are minimal. I think that will be better defined throughout the life of the plan.

Kristofer Marble – You mentioned as you went through the age objectives unit by unit there were several considerations, one of them being trying to get folks through the draw system, point creep etc. But it looked like you increase more units than you decreased. Have we overlaid what the tag impact is going to be?

Justin Shannon – Yes. On the Deep Creek unit I don't know if we would have changes in permits. If we did it would be minor. On the Monroe probably not because we are still trending in the right direction. We are already killing close to a 7 or 7.5 year old bull there now. Some of these didn't have major impacts permit wise. The South Cache would probably take a cut in permits but right now we have a 5.5 year old bull there anyway so we have been over the target for a few years and we have been ramping up the permits. It may not be necessarily a cut in permits; it may just be stop adding in some instances. That was a hard analysis to run. We thought that maybe when it was all said and done if everything were stagnant it would be less than 100 tags but limited entry we added close to 100 tags to the landscape this spring. I view it more as not increasing permits as opposed to cuts.

Kristofer Marble – In fairness we have probably been undersubscribed in some units for the age objectives that are there.

Justin Shannon - It seems in a lot of our 4.5 to 5 and our 5.5 to 6 we are exceeding those age objectives so we've been adding and adding. I think it will have minimal impact.

Kristofer Marble – You mentioned there would be cow hunts in severe winter situations what would that look like? I know on private land there are mitigation tags but what would you do on public lands.

Justin Shannon – What we could do is we have a depredation hunter pool which is where we can issue permits from a list. I guess the spirit of that concept is say for instance you have an area where you have elk and its going well and we have a hard winter and a lot of elk are moving down onto private land or creating conflicts in those ways then the Division would get aggressive with those permits whether it is over the counter or an alternate list or depredation hunter pool or those types of things. We wanted this plan to be as transparent as possible so if that is our intent we wanted to be upfront about it ahead of time.

Kristofer Marble – Do you anticipate those numbers going through the RAC and Wildlife Board process or is that just a call made by the Division?

Justin Shannon – This is our philosophy if we can have the RAC and Board approve permits that is the avenue we would like to go but in some cases there are real conflicts where you have elk stacked on top of each other and you have to solve a problem. We are trying to expand the tool bag to make sure we can solve these issues.

Kristofer Marble – The only issue I see there is if you overharvest the public is going to say you didn't go through the process. That is the risk you run there.

Justin Shannon – If we get too aggressive and we put a dent in these elk we could simply back off the permits the next spring.

John Fairchild – A lot of time the depredation hunts are a way to discourage the elk from being in places where they are causing damage and the hunting pressure alone is what keeps them out of those agricultural areas. The actual harvesting isn't the main objective.

Kristofer Marble – You talked about the weapon split and I know that was carried over from the previous plan. Was there a survey to see if that weapon split is still conducive to public demand?

Justin Shannon – For the mule deer plan we did do a public survey. For the elk plan we didn't. One reason we didn't is because we wanted to try this new approach and that was with the broad committee we had of 18 public members and Division personnel we felt like if we could list the things that are working well and the things that we are struggling with then let's tackle those. I think going into it there were a lot of very evident areas that we had to improve so that was what we wanted to focus on with this plan. There was not the survey we saw with the mule deer plan.

Alan White – A hunter asked me a question a while ago. He went to buy a cow elk permit but they wouldn't sell him one. They said they were only available to people who already had a bull or permit. Explain that.

Justin Shannon – That is what we call an antlerless elk control permit and that is part of my next presentation. In short, if you have a buck or bull permit or once-in-a-lifetime permit in select areas of the state you can go buy a cow permit over the counter and harvest that cow during the season dates and areas of overlap on your buck, bull or once-in-a-lifetime permit. It is in areas where we are trying to get to objective.

Alan White – But because he didn't have the bull permit already he wasn't eligible for that permit.

Justin Shannon – Correct and the idea behind that is in some areas adding hunters on top of hunters all you do is you kill the same amount of elk but your success rates drop. The idea with that program is if you already hunters afield in that area anyway and they can harvest a cow then that helps without adding to hunter crowding or lowering success rates for the other hunts that are occurring.

Larry Fitzgerald – Expand on what it means to review and modify eligibility requirements for landowner programs. Is that a landowner association thing that would address having less than 10,000 acres for a CWMU?

Justin Shannon – It directs us to look at the CWMU/landowner association rule and maybe come up with other types of rules or programs that would help and the focus is to make sure if we are going to have cooperative partnerships with landowners and the Division that we get the cow elk harvest that we need in these areas so if some of these rules don't have teeth then maybe we need to put teeth in them.

Larry Fitzgerald – So if you had 7,000 or 8,000 acres could you apply for a CWMU?

Justin Shannon – That doesn't necessarily address the minimum acres one it. It could when that rule comes up but the idea is to make sure that we are getting harvest where we need it and if that need is on private lands then let's make sure that is occurring to the extent that we can.

Larry Fitzgerald – I have talked to two different large landowners but they are under the 10,000 acres but they have a lot of elk on their ground. They were hoping the acreage would be lowered because not every acre is created equally. Is that addressed in this plan?

Justin Shannon – In the CWMU presentation for tonight? No, not to my knowledge.

Larry Fitzgerald – When could we address that?

Justin Shannon – You could address it tonight. It's an agenda item.

Larry Fitzgerald – I would like to address it because every acre is not the same. There are smaller parcels of ground, less than 10,000 acres that harbor lots of elk and that would be something I would like the board to address. Elk Horn Ranch has 7,000 acres with a lot of elk on their ground and they would like to get some revenue for that.

Justin Shannon – Table that for the CWMU presentation tonight.

John Fairchild – It's kind of a chicken and the egg thing here. The elk plan identifies that as a strategy to look at alternatives to incentivize the harvest of antlerless elk on private land and that could entail a variety of different things.

Justin Shannon – The strategy if you look at it says to review eligibility requirements for landowner incentive programs to increase cow elk harvest and or improve elk distribution. It's kind of a chicken and egg thing. This is talking about how do you get harvest on private land where you need it not necessarily what are the requirements to become a CWMU or not. If you think it is appropriate and want to tackle the strategy by all means. We do have the CWMU rule opening tonight.



George Garcia – A couple of clarifying questions on the private land only permits. Are those strictly on private land and is the private land parcel identified when you issue that permit?

Justin Shannon – No the private land won't be identified. If you have the Nebo unit and there are private lands only cow elk permits on that it would be any private land on the Nebo unit.

George Garcia – So it is not an individual private landowner that says he is having an impact by elk and wants to reduce some numbers on private land.

Justin Shannon – I like the concept because if you have a landowner that has more elk on them than he or she is willing to tolerate and they want to get some harvest they can allow hunters to go get these permits and go harvest elk on their property. They don't have to come to the Division. We don't have to sign off on anything. The permits would be approved through the RAC and Board. There would be a set amount and they could just buy those over the counter, get the access and permission to go and help some landowners solve some problems. One of the goals is to increase that tolerance and we thought this might be a good way to do it.

George Garcia – That is only valid on private so if the landowner comes to us and says the elk are no longer on my land, they moved to public land and I want these guys to go harvest them on public land then that is not a valid permit anymore.

Justin Shannon – No. We have avenues to harvest cow elk on public land. I actually hope that is one of the advantages to this because again this is all about redistributing elk so if they have been congregating on private land for a long time and the private landowner doesn't want them there, I think John said it best, you are not going to harvest all of them but the hunting pressure may push them on public land which would be a better thing for Utah hunters.

Richard Hansen – Does the extra cow tag that goes with any type of bull permit whether it was a spike, any bull or limited entry permit

Justin Shannon – Are you talking on the antlerless elk control permits? We have defined areas and we have a map on our website so you can see the whole state and see where they are at. If you have a but permit, it doesn't matter if it is general season or limited entry or a bull permit, same conditions or your once-in-a-lifetime permit you can go purchase a cow elk permit over the counter and then hunt within the boundary where it overlaps with your boundary and many times those are the same boundary.

Richard Hansen – It is getting more confusing. On the private land permit will there be a list of agreeable private landowners that will allow harvest on their lands that will be available to someone that would like to go and get an antlerless elk permit?

Justin Shannon – We haven't explored that so I guess my answer would be no or not yet. I know in some of the regions though as we deal with landowners and they want assistance often times they will give their name to biologists and say if anybody calls and is looking for a place feel free to give them my information. That is probably a better way to go about it because we get contacted all the time asking where to hunt on private land.

Richard Hansen – Would the Division let those private landowners know the names of those hunters that might be accessing their lands so they would be able to keep an eye out?

John Fairchild – We really can't do that either. That is privileged information.

Justin Shannon – John is right, it's delicate. We have facilitated some of that where a landowner says they want someone to come harvest some elk, who do you got? Then we could look at who has contacted us lately and pair them together but there are some sensitivity issues there.

John Fairchild – I see it working like if you want to put in for the draw up in the northern region out of Coalville say and you would probably want to know ahead of time if you had permission to go hunting on that ground before you apply in the draw so it would be something like that.

Justin Shannon – That is one of the big reasons why these are over the counter.

John Bair - Just because we create this tag doesn't mean that every unit is going to have private land tags that the landowners are going to have to deal with. When we discussed this in the meeting I think everyone was of the agreement that this was to deal with problem areas. This isn't a statewide permit; we aren't going to put them everywhere. This is to deal with kind of the problem areas. We are not just turning lose a bunch of guys that can only hunt on property where there may not be any access. We will

have thought that out, talked to landowners and that's where we will implement these tags. I can't trust Justin to make all the points; I've got to keep him inline.

Richard Hansen – Are there any incentives for private landowners? Have you thought about how you would do that?

Justin Shannon – That would be the next bullet point there. It is something we've got to work through to investigate and incentive program that deals not so much with money but maybe for the opportunity to harvest a limited entry bull on that unit. I think these three bullet points blend together because that might allow landowners to allow public access on if they knew they had the option or the potential to get a bull elk for this unit out of that. Again, before any of that is done it would come back through the RAC and Board process.

### **Questions from the Public**

Cody – On the cow permit that you buy over the counter with buck or bull permit if you harvest buck or bull first does your cow permit expire that day?

Justin Shannon – No, you can still harvest the cow through the end of your season.

Rob Hardy – Are public land permits going to be issued still for elk that are counted on private land or are the private land permits going to be based on the private land counts and is a bull to cow ratio possible?

Justin Shannon – The first question is tough because when you talk about are these private land elk or public land elk the best time to conduct surveys is in the winter when you have good snow conditions and you can track elk and you know how many elk are on the landscape but just because you see that elk on a winter range we don't have any way of knowing if it was on public land or private land four months previous and that is the real issue. That is really the issue with the Wasatch is we count and we say there are x amount of elk and sportsmen come back and say yeah but they weren't available. We recognize that and that is why some of these are solely designed to help with this issue.

Rob Hardy – I almost think there needs to be a separate count somehow. They have to be huntable elk to issue permits for.

Justin Shannon – What that would entail is surveying during hunts and some of the meanest phone calls I ever got is related to that. It is challenging and not only that, to survey when the leaves are still on there are some real challenges there. I understand the concept but I don't know how we would ever tease out that this percentage of elk was on private land during the hunts.

Covy Jones – This sounds like a Wasatch specific question. We've spent a lot of money on these GPS collars and we are getting some really cool data. We talk about private lands elk and public land elk, they are the same elk. They are just smarter than we are sometimes. It has been really interesting to watch. We don't have as many collars out as we want yet and hopefully we will get there this winter. The goal is 300 on the Wasatch and surrounding units to see what they are doing. It was really interesting to watch those elk that were around public and private ground and during the bow hunt and then you come into the rifle hunt and they go deeper into private. They are the same elk. The hunt ends and they come back off private. The GPS collars are providing some of the best data and there is no way to distinguish that that is a private land elk because it's not. It is a private land elk in September and in August and October it's a public land elk. Even though our winter counts are done on winter range that was also interesting to see that all those elk that were on winter range, one of the arguments we heard a lot was the elk aren't going back to the unit, with the number of collars we put out we showed a net immigration of elk to the Wasatch. If anything we have more elk on summer range on the Wasatch than we do on winter range but the sportsmen are telling the truth too when they say we don't see them

and when we watch the GPS collars we can say yeah you are probably not seeing them because they are where you wouldn't see them. That is the goal of this elk plan is to be able to use the tools to redistribute those animals to relieve pressure in some areas and apply pressure in other areas and see if we can't retrain them and we are excited about that. In the central region we are excited to see if we can put them back where they are more available, more huntable, and more enjoyable for everybody.

Richard Hansen – Have you considered changing the hunt boundaries where those elk move back and forth? Would that make a difference?

Covy Jones – That is really hard to answer right now. I think we need a couple more years' data to be able to answer that question better but it seems regardless of the hunt boundary that those elk would still be unavailable and it is just applying pressure within the unit to change behavior.

Justin Shannon – Can I make one more point with this. I just don't want John getting up here and saying I didn't make all the points. I don't know how many in this room but there were a lot of people that were on the Wasatch elk committee that was put together this last February and March and that committee generated a lot of good ideas and helped identify real issues with elk management. We took that list and took it to the statewide committee and I remember John Bair saying when this plan is done if we don't have new tools to address these things than we have failed and I agree. There are some really neat things in this plan that allow biologists to get creative, in fact we have a strategy that says to encourage unique ideas from local wildlife biologists to help solve these problems and address these issues. This plan is very open to dealing with the challenges that elk bring.

Rob Hardy – You didn't address the bull to bull to cow ratio?

Justin Shannon – I think out of all the classification data that we gather it is probably the weakest data set that we have. I got a phone call from Colorado's big game coordinator. They are looking to move to age objective. Nevada is having those conversations as well because we all know that bull to cow ratio is extremely difficult to get and here is why, it's not just because we can't do it, with big game there is something called sexual segregation which means the males use some habitat and behave different than the females for ten months of the year and during the breeding season they are all together and easy to do those counts and get all that information. The problem is that the breeding season is in September. It is very difficult to do a survey with the leaves on so we know that we underestimate bulls on all of our surveys. We treat sight ability different on a lot of this stuff. We could do it but I don't think it is better than the system we currently have.

Gary Kummer – Are there any cow elk left on the Wasatch? I just spent a week in Daniels Canyon looking at bulls, I hunt with everybody else and I will tell you about that a little later. There were 30 bulls that I saw and only two cows. I know the cows go down the Wallsburg side but I saw two cows and 30 bulls. The greatest cow hunter on the face of the earth is my brother. He can sniff out a cow anywhere. He couldn't get a cow this year. From the people I talk to they feel there is nothing left. When do you pull the brakes?

Justin Shannon – With this plan. This plan is the umbrella to help us do things differently and I think we can all agree that the challenge on the Wasatch is you have a lot of public land and the hunters go there and the elk aren't there because they are seeking refuge. They are smart animals. The challenge that we have as hunters and the wildlife agency is coming together with ideas where you can get harvest and hunting pressure in the areas that they consider now to be refuge and if you can put pressure there you can add more elk to the public lands and help public hunters down the road. That is the goal.

Gary Kummer – I have a friend with a place in Utah. He has a farm and his is the biggest whiner on the face of the earth about the elk. He just drives the northern people nuts but these

elk do attack his ground and all he has ever said is he would like to get a bull permit for this and he knows what bulls sells for. He gets 7,500 for a bull permit on his ground now.

Justin Shannon – Again that is the second bullet point. There are ideas that we have to explore.

Gary Kummer – I appreciate what you guys are doing but my people feel like the brakes need to be hit now.

### **Comments from the Public**

Gary Kummer – I spent a week on the Wasatch, my kid had a late bull tag and this was the biggest slaughter fest I have seen in my life. I have felt so bad about this. I can't believe that anybody can condone such a nightmare as what I have seen. My kid got a bull. I saw five bulls killed in a 700 yard by 500 yard area. All five bulls killed were above 300, one was 360, and another one was around 340. This was in front of Dry Canyon right across from Daniels Canyon. They were shooting them at 700 yards. I saw a bull hit at 600 yards with these big 300 ultra mags. I saw it crawling down the hill with a busted back. These bulls are hard to get during the rut. These are some big bulls and they are dropping them left and right with these big long range guns and it is disgusting to see it. My kid got one too but he only shot his at 200 yards. They got two in Clegg Canyon, four in Center Canyon and I didn't anyone from the Division up there watching all this so you will have to take my word for it. When you get the count of this late season rifle hunt you are going to be scared. This is bad. Guys spend their money to come in here and listen to these bulls bugle and sing and chase them around. The cows are all running off and it's keeping these bulls safe but this is a fish in a barrel. I hate to say it because I want my kid to get this tag next year but it is sad. It made me feel bad to see these bulls coming down to get fat at the end of the year and people picking them off at 700 yards left and right shooting off the highway. I saw you are going to have more of those tags and it made me feel bad.

John Larsen – Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife – I want to take a minute to thank Justin and his team and all of those who were a part of that committee. We had some membership on that committee and the feedback I would get after those meetings was very favorable. Just like any of these committees you have a large group of guys and there are a lot of differing opinions and when you come out with an end product like we did I think it's an avenue to answer a lot of the questions that have been asked here tonight. As Justin stated it will take some work and progress takes time to measure but on that note on behalf of SFW we would like to accept the Divisions plan as presented with one exception and that is the age class objective on the Monroe. We have some passionate membership that live down there and hunt that mountain and they would like to see that age class stay the same and not fall back. Thank you.

Roy Hampton – Utah Bowman's Association – We had a member, Ben Lowder, was on this committee and we are in favor of the elk plan as written. Going back to the late hunt that the gentleman was talking about, the October hunt is going to address this if we do it right. You can move those tags out of September and put them into October and take them out of the November hunt. The Wasatch and the Manti are the two units that need to be addressed on that October hunt because there are so many tags on those two units and it is a slaughter. Anyone that goes up there can see it. It is the only place those bulls can go. They are out in the open. If we use that October hunt right we can help some of these bulls make it through that. Thank you.

### **RAC Discussion**

Danny Potts – There was a proposal for a willing buyer and willing seller of landowners who want to advertise the opportunity for their land to be open to the public almost similar to a walk

in access area but not as formal. The only problem I have is it just seems a bit too good ol' boy to me because my mom's ex-husbands, brother doesn't like the CO then that can cause problems. I like the idea of a list if there is any way we could do that because then people could plan and if they know if that landowner is on a list then they can ask them.

Ben Lowder – Are you talking about the private lands only permit?

Danny Potts – Mostly it was a general hunt type thing too. If I have a cow tag in an area and I don't know if I can gain access to the animals because they might be on private land then it would be nice to have a list of willing landowners. That would be huge for the public.

Ben Lowder – I agree that could be beneficial to the public but I will say that access to private property has always been the responsibility of the hunter and should continue to be the responsibility of the hunter not necessarily the DWR. I agree that would be a benefit to the public but I have a hard time putting all that responsibility on the Division when really that responsibility should rely on the hunters.

Larry Fitzgerald – I don't think the landowners would appreciate the Division posting their name and number.

Danny Potts – I'm saying if they say they want their name and number on that list that is a benefit to the public.

Ben Lowder – There are some but I agree with Larry, the majority probably wouldn't. I deal with some private landowners in Wyoming and they used to maintain a list of landowners who are willing to let hunters on but they no longer do.

John Fairchild – I think what you are talking about is a walk in access program and we will be tapping whatever opportunities there are there and those are on our website and people can find those. I think that is the avenue for a list of landowners.

Ken Strong – I received some emails and a few phone calls from the Richfield area and SWF just brought it up too. They want to leave the Monroe the way it is right now? What are your feelings on that?

Justin Shannon – Let me give you the why as to why the Monroe was recommended to drop an age class, that is simply because in the past the Mt. Dutton and Panguitch Lake were managed for 5.5 to 6 year olds and then you put them right next to a 7.5 to 8 year old unit and that can get problematic when elk go back and forth between units when you are trying to manage to an age objective so the thought from the committee and the conversations that we had were, let's take the sharp edges off of this instead of being high on one and low on the other let's smooth this out so that even if elk do go back and forth to some extent your age objectives are closer. That is why we recommended it that way.

Ben Lowder – In addition to that we were given criteria in the elk committee as to what type of a unit qualifies for a certain age objective. There are units that are remote and rugged and have low populations on them and units that are more accessible units and have a lot of elk on them and those don't necessarily qualify for the top age objective and fit the management style of a lower age objective. Monroe does not fit the criteria for that top tier age class. In fact I would go as far as saying it fits 6.5 to 7 based on the criteria we were given. I don't know if that helps.

Ken Strong – It helps I just thought there was a big war over that change.

Ben Lowder – And we anticipated that.

John Fairchild – I think you can also talk about the expected number of permits even though we don't get there until spring given how accessible that area is we weren't going to affect permit numbers at all.

Justin Shannon – Yeah, I don't think so. On the Monroe we only have 27 total permits now and this year the age objective jumped by half an age so it is trending really good now. I don't think we would cut more permits. When you start falling below 27 on a unit that summers the number

of elk they summer there, there are quite a few, it's not very many permits. Whether it stays 6.5 to 7 or 7.5 to 8 the permits are going to stay the same in the foreseeable future.

Ben Lowder – To be honest based on the criteria of what would qualify for an upper tier or lower tier the Monroe really should be a tier lower than what we are proposing but we knew it would be an issue and that was the compromise.

Justin Shannon – Ben is right, as we talked about it in the committee the access to elk, there are roads all over that mountain but we also take unit histories into account as well and it has been managed in the past for an older age class bull. We are trying to find that middle ground. If you go back to our very first objective, I know this is for populations, but right off the bat we talked about managing elk at appropriate spatial scales and taking migration patterns into account. That is in the antlerless section but we are thinking through what makes the most sense to harvest these elk at a recreational level as well.

Kristofer Marble – Ben can you talk to me about the late elk hunts. I have heard some anxiety about the late hunts and maybe the committee addressed that. I am just trying to understand the issue. Is it really harder to harvest an elk with a rifle during the rut? There is some concern that I am hearing that the late hunts are a bit of a slaughter.

Ben Lowder – It varies from unit to unit really. I will speak specific to the Wasatch because that is right in our backyard. In the elk committee we designed this new October limited entry hunt and in my opinion that was largely designed for the Wasatch unit. On the Wasatch unit, just a little bit of a history, we put a late hunt on it for two years then removed the late hunt because the purpose of the late hunt was to pull some hunters out of September and put them into November where there would be lower success but that wasn't the case on the Wasatch. Those first two years we were killing almost 100 percent. So they look the late hunt away because it didn't fit the criteria for a late hunt on the Wasatch. Then we added the late hunt back on a few years ago because of crowding issues in September where we have so many limited entry tags on the Wasatch and November was the only place to put them. This October hunt was designed for two reasons, it gives another opportunity for someone with a rifle that doesn't want to switch weapons and we anticipate the odds will be easier to draw a tag and then also it is another place that we can spread those tags out so instead of September tags and November where on the Wasatch during both those time frames the elk are extremely vulnerable we can put some in October when they are not so vulnerable. We can deal with that crowding issue in September without having to put them all in November.

Richard Hansen – From a personal opinion on the Monroe we started going on the Monroe 11 or 12 years ago and we built a cabin down there. It was nothing to see a 350 bull. They laid down in the meadow right outside our cabin. Every time we were down there there were bulls like that. You would see 18 bulls together. It's only been in the last two or three years that has started to happen again and that is because of no spike on any weapon hunts. We have a lot of mid age bulls down there right now and I think that is the reason for the increase in the age harvest. How soon are you going to take that off? I would feel bad about you doing that.

Justin Shannon – That has only been in effect two years so it wouldn't have an impact yet. You wouldn't get older age class bulls in that two year period. You would be seeing an increase in yearling and two year olds now. The reason that the quality on the Monroe increased because at the beginning of the last plan that unit was dropped to the lower tier age objective and so in order to manage to that objective permits were being funneled to that unit at a pretty rapid rate and then it wasn't until recently that it got reinstated as a 7.5 to 8 year old unit so what you are seeing over that ten year period, and you are right, the quality was lost but in many ways it was lost by

design because we were trying to manage to a younger age class bull and now that age is trending up and that is what you are seeing.

Richard Hansen – So you are not concerned with it being a world class unit anymore? It takes 19 points to draw that.

Justin Shannon – I guess I look at it this way. We have 7.5 – 8 year old units and should the Monroe qualify for that? I think that is something the RAC is going to have to struggle with. Clearly as we went through the committee we felt like this was the compromise we wanted to make and it is something you will have to struggle with tonight.

Richard Hansen – I just wondered why it was before and it's not now.

Justin Shannon – In the last plan it was taken down. It had done some up and down.

## **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White, Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### **6) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R567-5 Rule Amendments (Action)**

**- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

#### **Questions from the RAC**

Richard Hansen – Why can't the results of the draw be posted earlier?

Justin Shannon – Utah is one of the earliest application states in the west but you are right it does take quite a while to get the results out. We don't do our own draw. We contract that with a company in Fallon Nevada. Once the Board approves the permits the first part of May it is a pretty tight turn around to get those results back in three weeks and get them posted. It sounds easy but it gets pretty complicated especially when you take lifetime license holders, dedicated hunter, youth allocations and all these types of things into account. They take the time to make sure it's right. I would rather wait another week and make sure it is right than rush it. That is why we chose the end of May.

Ken Strong – I noticed you had an overlap season on the Paunsaugunt. Is there very many elk on the Paunsaugunt?

Justin Shannon – Relative to other units in the state, no. Again this is one where we wanted to try it on some smaller units as well as some bigger units like Fish Lake and get the feedback. Maybe what we find is there are problems on some types of units and not on others. Paunsaugunt made sense to do it there.

Karl Hirst – We are adding six of the late season limited entry muzzleloader hunts. How did they go this year? I guess they just recently closed.

Justin Shannon – I haven't heard. I am eager to get the results back from that. Generally when you do the hunter harvest report there is a comment section and that is one that I am eager to see what those hunters had to say and how that hunt went. I haven't heard any feedback. I don't know if any Division employees have heard.

Covy Jones – Just the photos.

Danny Potts – One of the more controversial ones was scopes on muzzleloaders. We just keep making muzzleloaders more like high powered rifles and archery equipment more and more like muzzleloaders. It just seems like it doesn't seem to be an artisanal type of hunt anymore. How significant was that survey? I saw the results but I can't remember. How significant were the results in support of the scopes for muzzleloaders.

Justin Shannon – 57 percent were in favor, 37 percent were not in favor and then I think 4 percent had no opinion on it. That is combined, that looks at your archery, rifle and muzzleloader hunters. If you just look at the muzzleloader hunters it was about 60 percent in favor.

Larry Fitzgerald – It didn't state what power.

Justin Shannon – By design we didn't put one on.

Ben Lowder – Could you address why the October limited entry elk hunt was not considered for the Wasatch or Manti.

Justin Shannon – The Manti never really came up as a discussion point internally. The Wasatch did. We went back and forth on that as to whether we should try it on there first. There were some law enforcement concerns. We ultimately decided to try it on these three with the overlap. I don't know if that is a great answer but we did entertain it and slightly chose not to go that way.

Richard Hansen – Do you know what the success rate was for the late elk hunt even last year on Nebo?

Justin Shannon – We can look it up.

John Bair – I remember asking that at Board meetings and it's high. On the Wasatch it is as high as or higher than the early season.

Richard Hansen – I know they did pretty well this year on the Nebo.

Ken Strong – On the late limited entry muzzleloader hunts for deer are you going to start out with limited numbers like you did on the Zion unit with just a few permits starting out?

Justin Shannon – We are not setting the permits tonight on these but last year with the six units we tried this on we only had 46 total permits. That late hunt is not a dumping ground for permits. This is one we are starting slow and getting the feedback. Is it truly a hunt that is worth spending the bonus points on? We will start slow. I can't tell you how many permits.

Ken Strong – I had some emails that were concerned about killing all the big bucks so I was just wondering how many.

Justin Shannon – If it is anything like last year they were kept pretty low.

Karl Hirst - When is the season going to be?

Justin Shannon – It is the end of October to the first of November. I think this year it was the October 28<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>. It overlaps the spike muzzleloader elk hunt.

John Fairchild – You would adjust if buck to doe ratios went the wrong direction so that is your anchor.

Justin Shannon – I think it is really a credit to how well our deer herds are doing that we have 17 or 18 units that are managed for 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does and 12 of them are qualifying. We are seeing that at our check stations, we are hearing that from hunters. Deer are doing really well in Utah so if we can provide this limited entry opportunity and help some of the point creep through these deer hunts we want to take advantage of it. John is right, if things reverse the other way we can shut these off pretty quick.

Covy Jones – The late elk hunt on Nebo was 83 percent and 80 percent on the Wasatch.



Richard Hansen – You said the units that you proposed the late muzzleloader hunt for you said they are exceeding the 18 bucks per 100 does. Does that include the 2014 counts? It doesn't give you that.

Justin Shannon – Our big game annual report will be out shortly and it will include 2014. Every one of these is exceeding 20 bucks per 100 does on a three year average. And maybe more important than the three year average is the trend. They are all going up which gives us some pretty good confidence to try these hunts.

Richard Hansen – We will decide if that is because of the winters.

### **Questions from the Public**

Jason Walker – Where did the new muzzleloader scope recommendation stem from?

Justin Shannon – We had some conversations internally to look at our primitive weapons and what we are currently doing with archery and muzzleloader and then these emergent technologies, what is the public pulse on that so we sent out a survey and there were a bunch of questions and we didn't know what the response was going to be. As we got some of the answers back we thought let's be receptive, if the big game hunters want this and 57 percent combined want this and we don't have a biological reason not to do it then let's do what the hunters are asking for.

Gary Kummer – Does this mean the late season elk hunt is still going to be 225 tags?

Justin Shannon – For the Wasatch we are proposing an early season and a late season and to Ben's question he was asking why we didn't propose an October season. We debated it and slightly chose not to.

Gary Kummer – Is the late season still going to have 225?

Justin Shannon – I don't know on permits. We are not setting permits tonight.

Gary Kummer – It's alright to have the late season and I appreciate what you guys are doing I'm just putting my two cents in, it's too much. Look at the number of kill when you set your permits and see if you can afford to give that many bulls away. Thank you for what you guys do.

Rob Hardy – I just overheard what John was saying about the buck to doe ratio being an anchor for decision making but it doesn't seem important for any elk recommendations.

Justin Shannon – I think it would be important for elk if we could get it and we had confidence in it.

Rob Hardy – I think we should try something.

Justin Shannon – How would you propose we get it?

Rob Hardy – I don't know. You get it for deer.

Justin Shannon – We get it for deer because the males and females are together and they are congregated on the winter range so you have the ability to survey that.

Rob Hardy – So fly them.

Justin Shannon – I think we would interrupt a lot of hunts. Especially these early rifle hunts. There might be some serious frustration and I'm not convinced you would get great counts. I think we would miss a lot of elk.

Rob Hardy – Could you count them on the winter range?

Justin Shannon – You could but it's not a true representation of what the bull to cow ratio would be.

Rob Hardy – Well I think you are way off on your bull to cow ratio. On the Wasatch I think you have more bulls than cows.

Justin Shannon – There are possibilities like that but it is just so tough to verify. You can model it but I know how much the public trusts our models when it can't be verified.

Rob Hardy – Just like Mr. Kummer said we were up there on the Wasatch the other day as we saw over 30 bulls and we saw three cows.

Larry Fitzgerald – What do you propose? More bull tags or less cow tags?

Rob Hardy – Less cow tags for sure.

Larry Fitzgerald – More bull tags?

Rob Hardy – No.

Larry Fitzgerald – If you are saying the ratio is out of proportion how are you going to fix it?

Rob Hardy – I think the herd objective on the Wasatch is too low. Where I used to see hundreds of elk I am lucky to see any and if they are they are usually bulls.

Larry Fitzgerald – I see a lot of bulls too.

John Fairchild – That will be addressed when we do our herd unit management plan after the elk plan has passed by the board and we will be going through that process probably this winter and spring.

Justin Shannon – Are you talking total population numbers are too low?

Rob Hardy – Yeah.

Justin Shannon – Let's have that discussion then.

Kristofer Marble – There are a lot of conflicting interests on the Wasatch though. It is a complicated discussion.

Rob Hardy – There is and there is a lot of private ground where elk are not hunted and then we are giving out tags for elk that are on private land during a public hunt and there are huge amounts of hunters and very few elk unless you are in the back country or on private. Hunters are becoming very disgruntled.

Larry Fitzgerald – Or lazy.

Rob Hardy – Some are.

Justin Shannon – I want to say even if the bull to cow ratio really were the answer and even if it were difficult and money were the issue we would push for it. If we could look at it and say that would be the silver bullet to help our management to get from here to here we would do it. The problem is we have no confidence in how to obtain that through flights. You are either interrupting hunts or you are underestimating bulls on a winter range so I don't want you to feel like that we are saying no that is not important what I am telling you is if we could get it I would be all over getting it. I just wouldn't have any confidence getting it right now.

Jason Hardy – It seems like on the Wasatch everyone is worried about these late hunts and over killing bulls, if they are worried about that why don't they put the late hunt as a muzzleloader hunt. Then they couldn't kill these bulls at 1,000 yards on open hills. Maybe that is something to consider. Make it more of a hunt rather than shooting across the canyon 1,000 yards at an elk and you would have less wounded as well.

### **Comments from the Public**

John Larsen – SFW – I would like to thank Justin again, great presentation. I think there is a lot of good content there. SFW accepts the recommendations as presented with one exception and that is we are going to take a neutral stand on the magnification on muzzleloaders. Let me explain that. We recently met with all of our chapter leadership from across the state and it is such a divided group. It is almost like the information you got from your survey. It is about 50 percent on both sides so rather than alienate part of our own group we are going to let them stand and make that decision on their own and we are going to remain neutral on that position. Thank you.

Jason Walker – I'm no biologist but I spend quite a lot of time out in the hill and from what I can see the deer herd is doing good compared to the last years and I am tickled to see that. – I have hunted with a muzzleloader for the last eight or nine years and I have learned how effective these modern day muzzleloaders can be as we have them now with the non-magnifying scopes. To sum it up I would like to see it stay the same as is. I think we have a good thing going with the deer. I feel like a bit of a hypocrite saying this because if magnified scopes are passed one is going on my gun, I'm just being honest but I would like to see it stay the same. I would like to see it the same as it.

Gary Nielsen – I appreciate the opportunity to come here and visit with you guys. I have a lot of understanding of what you are going through. I have a specific concern about the magnifying

scopes on muzzleloaders. I would like to share a few concepts or ideas with you that might affect some of the things you think about wonder about. I am representing the Mount Nebo chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation as well as three sections of wildlife management at Juab high school tonight. We have been fleshing this out ever since the proposal came out about would it be best for animals, would it be best for hunters in the whole broad spectrum of everything and I was really surprised that there were a few people out there that said it's probably a good idea and some of their justification was some of the sporting goods stores can't keep the quick release scope mounts in stock during muzzleloader season or anywhere near it. They said a lot of people were taking guess shots, holding up their binoculars and then look down the barrel and using really poor judgment. They thought that people are doing it anyway so let's just relax the rule and that doesn't make sense to me at all. That is like saying because people use poor judgment driving we should remove the traffic rules. Or because people are speeding that we should relax the rules. I think it fits in that same thing. Bottom line is anyone who is a muzzleloader enthusiast or even a draw hunt or limited entry hunt enthusiast I believe they would be against this and here is why. One of the reasons we can have more opportunity in muzzleloaders is because you have limited harvest, similar to bows. You can have a few more hunters afield with the opportunity to get out and kick around in the hills and try to get animals and they don't hurt the herd that bad because they are not taking that many. With the old muzzleloaders and even the newer ones you are pretty restrictive. You can get one that will shoot 500 yards and you can get a reticle that will adjust and justify for different velocities and different loads and you can shoot 800 yards with a muzzleloader with the right kind of scope. However the one neutralizing feature we have on them is the no magnification. That also keeps it at least slightly primitive even though the firearms have improved. You could make the same arguments on bows. Those who hunt with a recurve compared to the compound bows. I have one student that can shoot a group at 120 yards with his. I think if we allow magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders we will take out the older animals almost immediately. Like he said if this rule goes through I'll have one on mine because I know I will have about two more years of opportunity to chase those big boys I've been after for ten years and never quite got. A lot of close calls and a lot of fun. I think we would siphon off the older age class animals. The other thing that would happen is we base our tag numbers on harvest rate and harvest rate is going to go up dramatically if people can whack stuff with a nine power scope on a muzzleloader which would inversely affect the number of tags available. As the harvest rate goes up the number of tags goes down. It will mean less opportunity for hunters. I don't think a lot of people have thought this through to the point you are talking limited entry as well. We talk a lot about trying to give hunters opportunity and we know because there are so many of us in Utah and we really want opportunity but as the success rate goes up because of the lethal nature of new technology with magnifying scopes the kill rate will go way up and the tag rates will drop and we will have less opportunity in antelope, in elk and deer. So basically you are back to hunting during the heavy rut with a rifle and not a muzzleloader that is slightly primitive which actually scares me because it is already hard enough to draw a limited entry tag. With the reduced opportunity, I don't know how many guys have taken a turn not drawing; it's harsh when you put in a see the unsuccessful. On limited entry and once in a lifetime you can eat it numerous years in a row. A lot of guys have 16, 17, 18 points on the species of your choice but on general deer tag the second year in a row it's a bitter pill especially if you are a youth. I have some kids in my wildlife management class that haven't drawn a tag for two years. They are not putting in on a hard unit. They are just trying to hunt locally so they can go hunting after school. I would encourage both the long term and the short term. Short term we are going to siphon off the big boys. We are going to remove that older class of animal out of the population fairly quick. On the long term ultimately it will mean less opportunity for us as hunters and sportsmen because

they will have to reduce the number of tags because of the increased amount of harvest. I appreciate your time. I am not jealous of the position you are in. It was weird because I got as nervous coming here tonight as I used to coming to these and it has been funny to watch Richard. I appreciate what you do. I hope you will consider both the long term and the short term and weight that in your decision tonight. Thank you very much.

Karl Hirst – Does it make a difference if it were a lower power? We are going from a no magnification to a nine or more magnification.

Gary Nielsen – I think because of the improvements in muzzleloaders that unless we neutralize it with a no magnification that the challenge is going to be gone and we will harvest off the older animals.

Karl Hirst – Even a fixed four. The only reason I would go to four is because that is where the manufacturers are. Would a fixed four solve that?

Gary Nielsen – When your big bucks are sneaking into their beds is right as its getting light and what does a good scope do to light? It makes it so you can see well in dim light and it makes them too vulnerable. Because of the technology we should leave it as a one. That is my opinion. Most of the bucks I have almost got I would have had if I would have had a four power.

Riley Peterson – The only argument I would have about that is who in this room would not want a hunter to make the best shot that they could make on an animal? I respect his opinion about that but I want to make the best shot on an animal I could possibly make and I would want everyone to make that same shot. If you make a gut shot and you are tracking them or you lose the animal, for me I would want as big a scope I would want on a muzzleloader to make the best shot I can make and I would want that for everyone else. I do agree with making the long shots that he is talking about but in the long run you want to kill the animal. You don't want a wounded animal out there.

Roy Hampton – UBA – We are in favor of the DWR proposals other than we would like to see the Wasatch and the Manti included in the units that will have an October limited entry hunt and I really think the Division needs to start listening to the public. There are no cows on the Wasatch. They are not lying to you. You need to spend some time out there. They are not there. I have seen this happen over the last four or five years. These cows are disappearing because we are killing too many of them. They are not going on private ground. There are more bulls than cows. We really need to take a look at that. When we fly it this winter we need to see if those numbers are valid.

Gary Kummer – In the words of my kid, get rid of the range finder and it will end. Muzzleloader and rifle problems.

Richard Hansen – I have a thought about the magnification on muzzleloaders. I think when it comes to magnification and muzzleloaders I really believe as a hunter you have to make that decision as to what is an ethical shot for you. You have to make that decision. Whether that is with a four power scope or an open sight or a one power. You still have to make that decision. We can all lob those sabots out there 600 yards but what are the chances of you wounding that animal. There are a lot of things to consider and I hope that everyone will consider those issues. The issue of success rates versus the number of tags is also going to have to be a consideration in this. I will bring it back to the RAC for comments.

### RAC Discussion

Ken Strong – This is kind of a hard one for me because I have had a lot of people contact me on both sides of the issue. I look at the primitive weapon deal and I don't think we have a primitive weapon hunt anymore with all the new technology with archery and muzzleloaders. The primitive hunt is gone. I think with the scopes we will definitely kill more deer and less wounding of deer but I worry about down the road what it is going to do to the tag situation. Are we going to have such good success that we are going to cut back on the tags. I don't know the best way to go on that. As far as the cows on the public ground, I spent the rifle hunt and the limited entry hunt, the spike hunt and the deer hunt and after that on the Wasatch. I saw one cow and a calf. I don't know how many bulls I saw, but tons. I don't think the cows are out on the public ground. If they are there they have got to be on private because they are definitely not on public ground on the Wasatch.

Karl Hirst – I have to admit I was surprised there wasn't this October hunt for elk on the Wasatch. It seems like a perfect fit on the Wasatch from what we have talked about here tonight and what we have heard from this group here to pull some of those late season hunts into this October hunt and so I don't know how that works and I appreciate Justin's work on that and I recognize there may be some questions with that but I was surprised not to see that.

Ben Lowder – First I'll start on the October limited entry rifle hunt specific to the Wasatch and the Manti. I was also disappointed not to see those recommended for that October hunt. The reason why is as we designed that hunt in the elk committee that hunt was really designed for the Wasatch. We have had crowding issues in September on the Wasatch. That is why we have a late hunt now on a unit that really doesn't fit the criteria for a late hunt other than we are trying to address some crowding issues so I would really like to see our RAC recommend that the October hunt get put in place on Wasatch for sure and I would throw the Manti in there as well. Speaking to powered scopes on muzzleloaders, you can't legislate ethics. It doesn't really matter if there is a power scope on a gun some people are going to take unethical shots. If you are an ethical hunter then you are going to know what your limitations are and hunt within those. I do believe if allow magnification to muzzleloaders we will effectively extend the range of that weapon and thus reduce the primitiveness of that weapon which it is currently considered a primitive weapon hunt. I think there is potential to increase success rates which again decrease the number of tags in the future. I don't think it's going to have an impact on wounding either way because ethics are an individual thing. If you are not comfortable with a shot and you think you may wound the animal again that comes back to ethics. You should attempt to get closer rather than attempting a shot you are not comfortable with. Personally I am not in favor of magnified scopes on muzzleloaders for those reasons.

John Bair – Justin, we have heard a lot of talk about success rates going up and effecting the tags and whatnot. Twenty percent of our tags go to muzzleloaders. Is that right?

Justin Shannon – Yes.

John Bair – I know you have all this right on the tip of your tongue that is why I'm asking you. If our success rate was to go up what is a realistic expectation of what would happen to our success rate and what would happen to tag numbers. Say it went up five percent which to me is totally out of the realm of possibility and also when the Division put this together did you take into consideration that perhaps maybe our retrieval might be higher because of better shot placement not necessarily leaving more deer out on the mountain. Where do you see this playing out if say it went up five or ten percent? What would that do to our tag ratios?

Justin Shannon – Muzzleloader success right now is about 30 percent and that has increased since we cut permits the last several years. Even if we went to 40 percent, which our rifle percent isn't even 40 percent but if it did say jump 10 percent because we only have 20 percent of the permits that are actually allocated to muzzleloader if you saw a ten percent increase in your muzzleloader success it's really only a two percent increase in total deer take annually. You might see it in the muzzleloader but your muzzleloader is so minimal, it is 20 percent of the total permits issue, so even if there are jumps it will be minimal in the overall picture of things which was our perspective on it. Your earlier question about what is it going to do with harvest rates and success rates, it really is hard to know but I also think the ethics can't be ignored. If you are 85 to 120 yards with a muzzleloader and this helps you have better shot placement I don't know if we necessarily kill more deer. We might retrieve more deer. Instead of having a wounded deer run off you might be taking that deer home and your hunt is over. There is a lot to play out and I don't pretend to have all the answers with it but that was some of the logic behind why we felt comfortable moving forward with scopes on muzzleloaders.

John Bair – Justin, thank you and Richard, thank you.

Danny Potts – My main concerns with magnification on scopes is that once we take that step we aren't going back. Once people have bought those scopes for their guns and we decide that it may not have been the best idea or whatever it didn't work out quite the way that we thought there is no reneging at that point. We can't say now you can't have your scope now a couple years later. I don't see any problem waiting a year or two. It is too controversial I think. It is obvious tonight that it is.

Kris Marble – Quick questions before I get into my comments. Do we have any data today that shows the difference between wounding rates between muzzleloaders and rifles?

Justin Shannon – We do ask that question on our harvest survey.

Kristopher Marble – Do you know what those numbers are?

Justin Shannon – For the any weapon hunt it is about 1 percent of all the permits allocated. For muzzleloader it is 2.1 percent and archery is 4.5 percent. Those are hunters who claim they shot at an animal, I hit it, and I didn't retrieve it.

Kristofer Marble – So we are talking a pretty negligible percent even if we were to double our retrieval rate on muzzleloaders it is still a pretty small number relatively speaking.

Justin Shannon – That is why for us, from the Division's perspective we could look at a lot of data and look at those types of things. We view this as a social issue. It is the Division's recommendation to do it and largely driven by that survey that so many hunters wanted it.

Biologically you can say aren't you harvesting animals but again we are harvesting bucks. Your population growth is going to be the same whether those are harvested or not.

Kristofer Marble – I was just curious because the comment came up that we would be more lethal and wounding rates would drop so I wanted to quantify that and understand what the potential there really was.

Justin Shannon – It is a very social issue.

Kristofer Marble – I think from a social aspect as others have mentioned I think it's tough to regulate ethics and if you put a scope on a muzzleloader or whatever technology you put in place there are always going to be certain hunters that aren't proficient with the equipment they have got and are going to stretch those boundaries regardless. I don't know that adding a scope changes hunter ethics from a social aspect. I have also heard from some hunters as well that muzzleloader hunters, when they draw a tag, it's not just a harvest it's an experience and I can't help but wonder if longer range shooting on a muzzleloader hunt would change that experience for a lot of folks and they may not have thought about that during the survey, I don't know. But

I am also concerned about increased success and the impacts that would have on tags down the line. Ben, I appreciate the explanation earlier on the late elk hunts and I would certainly support moving those hunts into October. I think it is a social issue again. I struggle to be terribly concerned about 80 percent success on a rifle elk hunt. This is a limited entry hunt however I can see the reasoning behind wanting to move that to October so I would support that. I also don't at this time, given the controversy and the different issues that have come up I don't think it is the right time to add scopes to muzzleloaders and if we did I certainly think it's got to be limited to Karl's point earlier to at least a four power to at least maintain some of that experience that you get when you draw a muzzleloader tag because I do think it is a unique experience separate from the archery or the rifle hunt.

Ben Lowder – Just to clarify I was not suggesting that we move all the November tags but just to add the October hunt to give another hunt to spread those tags to which would be a net decrease in tags on the November hunt.

Karl Hirst – Can you remind us how many responded on this survey? I seem to remember that it was a very large number.

Justin Shannon – It was over 19,000. We surveyed all the big game hunters that applied last year so pretty good response.

Karl Hirst – So about 50 percent wanted magnification but with no set number and 30 percent did not and 20 percent didn't have an opinion.

Justin Shannon – 57 percent were in favor of scopes on muzzleloaders, 37 percent were not in favor and four percent didn't have an opinion. We didn't get in the weeds on different things like setting it at a four power or anything in the survey.

Richard Hansen – One thing that they mentioned at the Wildlife Board meeting was that a one power scope actually makes the animal smaller. They also mentioned that our eye is like a 1.8 so if you went to a two power scope it would be like looking with your natural eye anyway. I thought that was interesting.

Justin Shannon – I meant to but I didn't go back and research that but those were the comments that were made and I can't remember who made those comments that a one power scope is actually a demagnification.

John Bair – We have a couple doctors on the Board. I'm sure it was one of them showing their intelligence.

Kristofer Marble – I have a one power and I use it on my muzzleloader. I brought all my buddies out and showed them. You can't see any difference. It is just a pass through basically. I'd love to see that one power scope where it actually looks smaller.

John Fairchild – You probably have a 1.8 power scope then.

## **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Larry Fitzgerald to accept the proposal to allow the use of a scope greater than one power on muzzleloaders**

Jacob Steele – I think the magnification should be kept away from the November hunts because that is during the rut so you are going to start losing a lot of your big bucks. You might as well open that to a general rifle season if you are going to magnify it because that November 2<sup>nd</sup> to the tenth you are going to see more bucks than you would in the early season because it's going to be in the rut and your age will drop pretty quickly.

Ben Lowder – Could I get some clarification Larry, what I think I'm hearing you say is you want to take a yes or no vote but a motion should really be, and correct me John if I am wrong, in favor or opposed to and then we vote on that motion. Could you please clarify your motion?  
Larry Fitzgerald – In favor or opposed to magnification on muzzleloaders.  
Richard Hansen – Just say in favor of.  
Larry Fitzgerald – In favor of magnification on muzzleloaders.  
Karl Hirst – So you are proposing what the DWR is recommending.  
Larry Fitzgerald – Yes.

**Seconded by Danny Potts**

**In Favor: none**

**Opposed: all**

**Motion failed unanimously**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to allow magnification on a muzzleloader with a maximum power of four**

**Motion dies, lack of second**

**Motion was made by Ben Lowder to not allow scopes with increased magnification on muzzleloaders**

**Seconded by George Garcia**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White, Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: Karl Hirst**

**Motion passed 10 to 1**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Wasatch Unit**

**Seconded by Kristofer Marble**

**In Favor: All, with 1 abstention**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed 10 in favor - 1 abstention Alan White**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the balance of the recommendations**

**Seconded by Ben Lowder**

**Motion withdrawn**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to add a mid-October limited entry rifle elk season on the Manti unit**

**Seconded by Ben Lowder**

**In Favor: Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: Michael Gates, Karl Hirst**

**Motion passed 8 to 2 - 1 abstention**

**(Alan White – reason – don't fully understand reasons for what they are trying to do there – as landowner too many hunters and want to add more hunters)**

Richard Hansen – I think the intent is to just spread the permits over those three hunts rather than a late and an early. It wouldn't increase permits.



**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Kristofer Marble**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White,  
Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**7) SER Deer Management Plans (Action)**

**- Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager**

**Questions from the RAC**

Karl Hirst – What happened in Beef Basin?

Guy Wallace – There probably isn't one factor. It has had a history of heavy grazing both by deer and cattle and then through the drought periods that we had in the 90's we saw huge areas of those stands just die. I think it was stressed from grazing and then the drought took them out.

George Garcia – What landownership is Beef Basin?

Guy Wallace – BLM. It has been a long term you can see some of those were back in the 80's and in the 80's we had a lot higher deer numbers. We have seen really high use on all the browse in Beef Basin during that time.

Ben Lowder – Would you contribute the majority of the decrease in population on that elk herd unit to Beef Basin issues or are there other issues going on there?

Guy Wallace – To speculate I would say a large part of that based on that winter range because there were a lot of deer off that unit that wintered in that wintering area so I think that is a pretty important influence why that herd has declined. As well through these drought years that took out the sage brush we had extremely low fawn production. I think one year we were 25 fawns per 100 does.

**Questions from the Public**

**Comments from the Public**

Jon Larsen – SFW – I want to thank Guy and his team for a great presentation. I want to say it has been a great year for deer in Utah statewide. The stories and the pictures that we get in the office every day the last four weeks really have been incredible. Even the amount of big bucks taken. We are seeing a lot of youth with four pointers and it has been really fun. We are tickled with that and we are tickled with the success. We accept the plan as presented but I would say that not all of Utah is seeing those great deer. We still have those troubled units like San Juan and South Manti. That is an issue area. He is right. He spoke to the sportsmen who live in that area and that hunt that mountain and they are seeing a lack of deer and we have some passionate membership there and we were actually able to sit down with Guy a few weeks ago and have a discussion with some of our chapter leadership there and it was a great meeting. Number one I appreciate the fact that we can sit down with the Division and have a true partnership like we do where you accomplish things and it's really great. It was a successful meeting but at the end of the day we still have low deer numbers on that mountain. It is the biggest unit we have in the state so I understand the need to manage it to opportunity, totally understand that. Our membership struggles just a little bit with the buck to doe ratio but again you can't manage it to opportunity if you increase that, we totally understand that. The thing we do like in this plan is you call for augmentation on that unit. So if it has been approved for that we would like to see that happen just as soon as possible. I know there is a plan that has to build and you have to make sure you get the right resources from those areas that we have those urban problems to get

the deer there but that is a step in the right direction to augment the population there. The other thing that wasn't really mentioned in here but is part of that plan would be predator management because once you are in a recovery plan like that predator management should kick in automatically and so if that is the case we would like to see that happen immediately and not wait. We know there is going to be a plan in place to get the deer there eventually when you do start the augmentation process but we would really like to see the Division start immediately with predator management on the South Manti. Thank you.

### **RAC Discussion**

#### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the management plans as presented**

**Seconded by Ben Lowder**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White, Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

#### **8) CWMU Management Plans (Action)**

**- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

#### **Questions from the RAC**

Larry Fitzgerald – What did the Blue Mountain operators do?

Scott McFarlane – They have two trapping violations of similar type in both Wyoming and Utah. There were also multiple investigations and warnings were issued on running people off public lands. The rule says that the Division will consider any wildlife violations or any information that is provided by the Division or the public in recommending this and we felt that this severely affected their ability to run a CWMU dealing with public hunters.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is this where I would make a request to see if we could lower the acreage of a CWMU?

Scott McFarlane – Probably in my last presentation on the rule change and I think I can answer your question on that.

George Garcia – You said that 96.8 percent was private landownership. What is the other 3.2 percent?

Scott McFarlane – Public lands. It could be state, Forest, BLM or SITLA. There are all those included. There are certain requirements that come with including public lands. It has to be completely surrounded by private land or otherwise inaccessible to the public, that is one requirement. The second one is it is needed to make an identifiable boundary and the third one is that it is needed to make the management objectives for a unit.

George Garcia – Do you know, of that 3.2 percent how much of that is Forest Service?

Scott McFarlane – I couldn't tell you off the top of my head.

Karl Hirst – You said that the operator for Jacob's Creek came in and withdrew and did some things. Are you now recommending approval on that?

Scott McFarlane – Yes we are. The request was that the original thing was that they wanted to trade out Forest Service land for private lands to make an identifiable boundary. It was definitely in the CWMUs best interest and not the public's interest so we kind of battled back and forth on that. He came in during the RAC meeting and withdrew their request for all boundary changes so they remain the same. He also requested that they drop the deer from the

CWMU and the Division is in agreement with that. His request is to drop that and we are ok with that and we would recommend approval of that and the additional ten permits would be the recommendation from the Division.

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

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the CWMU management plans as presented  
Seconded by Alan White**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White,  
Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 9) Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 (Action)  
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Alan White – Is there a minimum acreage in order to get a landowner association?

Scott McFarlane – To establish a landowner association, yes there is. It is not an actual number of acres it is a percentage. To qualify for a landowner association they have to enroll at least 51 percent, a simple majority of the acreage, 51 percent of all the private lands within a limited entry unit. For example if we had the Pilot Mountain unit, if there are 10,000 acres of private land in the unit then they would have to come up with 5,100 acres to qualify for that. That is not how the permits are calculated but that is just to qualify for it.

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

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristopher Marble to accept the landowner association permit numbers for 2016 as presented**

**Seconded by George Garcia**

**In Favor: Michael Gates, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White,  
Kristofer Marble, George Garcia, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder, Ken Strong**

**Opposed: none**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 10) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (Action)  
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Public Lands Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Larry Fitzgerald – Is it possible to get a variance for the acreage required for a CWMU?

Scott McFarlane – It is. Your question before was could we reduce the acreage on that and that has been kicked around a lot over the years and it was felt like we wanted to have that hard 10,000 acres for elk and moose and 5,000 acres for deer, pronghorn and turkey to ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity and that there is a resource there. Like you said before all properties are not created equal and it doesn't mean that a 7,000 acre CWMU can't function properly for elk for example. What we do is we have a variance process and they can apply for a

variance prior to applying for a new CWMU or a CWMU that changes ownership greater than 33 percent or decreases in acreage they can apply for these variances for acreage amounts or configuration. Currently they have to be contiguous acres. It goes through the CWMU advisory committee. They weigh out the merits of the request. Usually there is a Division recommendation and they are looked at pretty thoroughly but yes they can receive a variance. We have numerous CWMUs within the state that are operating under the old system but they are under acreage.

Larry Fitzgerald – They may have been grandfathered in. Some of these CWMUs may have 20,000 acres but they might not have as good as habitat as one with 7,000 acres so there should be consideration for that.

Danny Potts – I think there is a huge difference between Rio Grande turkeys and elk. For me as a public hunter who hunts primarily on public land and only cuts across corners of private land to get to more public land it's more an issue of contiguous easy boundaries for me than it is size of the unit. Are those the kinds of things that are taken into consideration for a variance? The species and the habitat quality but also how easy it is for the landowners and the public to deal with.

Scott McFarlane – We are getting stricter on the configuration of the boundaries and how it is identified by the public and the private. That is a lot of reasons why we include public land is to straighten up boundaries and to make an identifiable boundary. For example if a trail was going up a drainage and the boundary zigzagged up the trail and you wanted to make the trail an easily identifiable boundary that would be a reason to do it. One of the reasons the Blue Mountain CWMU was recommended for denial was because of the complexity of the boundary so what we are doing is we are looking at this before they get into the program. It's not that they can't request a variance but before they get into the program we take recommendations from law enforcement and the biologists and look at the merits of that and that is a big consideration in approving a CWMU.

Danny Potts - And on the species, there is a huge difference in Rio Grande and Merriam turkeys even though the two are hybridizing like crazy. These northern turkeys, the Rio Grande's, don't really go very far so if there was a unit that was only allowing turkey hunting seems to me that it could be substantially smaller.

Scott McFarlane – They would have to request a variance. The turkeys are kind of phasing out of the CWMU program since we have over the counter permits so currently we only have three CWMUs in the state that even have that.

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

**VOTING**

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

Alan White – My concern here is the requirement or the non-eligibility of the CWMU people to apply for permits. I disagree with that because it is such a minute amount anyway that they could apply for some of the public available permits on the CWMU. You are talking about the landowner and his dependent family so that would be kids under 18 years old I assume. The benefits I think that the CWMUs give to the wildlife are tremendous. I've been involved in a CWMU some and I can guarantee they are really good for wildlife and so I think it is not fair to take away their opportunity to be a public citizen, they are still public so I disagree with that part of the rule and I make the motion approve the rule with that exception.

**Motion made by Alan White to approve the recommendations with the exception that family members should be allowed to apply for public permits for their own CWMU**

Larry Fitzgerald – That does make sense because the immediate family is part of the public.

Karl Hirst – Where did that recommendation come from?

Scott McFarlane – This has been in the rule for quite some time. It is just a clarification; it has always been that way. I guess you are asking to change that is what you are saying. The reasoning behind this and this is from committees that I was on years and years ago, is that the CWMU has in most cases 90 percent of the permits and the public has 10 percent. Part of the CWMU program was to give a public benefit to the public's wildlife that is on private property. That was sort of the give and take so for the CWMU already has 90 percent of the permits and one of the family members draws that permit then all of the sudden we lose the public benefit for the CWMU program or potentially we have that so we wanted to make sure that a member of the public was to receive that permit. The CWMU has nine of those permits and they can assign those to the family member or sell them or whatever they want but we wanted to make sure the public got that benefit is the reasoning for that.

**Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald**

**In Favor: Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White**

**Opposed:**

**Motion failed 9 to 2**

**Seconded by Ken Strong**

**In Favor:**

**Opposed: Alan White**

**Motion passed 10 to 1**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.**

**50 in attendance**

**Next board meeting December 2, 2015 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake**

**Next RAC meeting December 3, 2015 at the Springville Civic Center**

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING**  
**Cedar Middle School - Cedar City, UT**  
**November 17, 2015 5:00 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Nick Jorgensen Gene Boardman Wade Heaton Mack Morrell Dave Black (Chairman) Layne Torgerson Rusty Aiken Brian Johnson Dale Bagley Craig Laub Brayden Richmond Sean Kelly Mike Worthen (in at 6:30)	Mindi Cox Stephanie Rainey Blaine Cox Lynn Chamberlain Lynn Zubeck Riley Peck Teresa Griffin Blair Stringham Josh Pollock Justin Shannon Brian Shearer Vance Mumford Jim Lamb Dustin Schaible Jason Nicholes Guy Wallace	Steve Dalton Donnie Hunter	Harry Barber

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. There were approximately 42 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: Find a seat and we'll get started. We would like to welcome you out tonight to the Southern Utah RAC meeting. My name is Dave Black; I'm the chairman. I'm from St. George, Utah. The first thing we'd like to do is introduce the RAC members, and we can start down on my far left and go from there.

Nick Jorgensen: I'm Nick Jorgensen from St. George. I represent the non-consumptive group.

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

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

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell; representing agriculture.

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

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

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City; at-large.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson from Enoch; non-consumptive.

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

Craig Laub: Craig Laub from Iron County and I represent agriculture.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond from Beaver representing sportsman.

### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)**

Dave Black: Thank you. Our first action item tonight will be to accept the agenda and the minutes. I'll entertain a motion to do that.

Rusty Aiken: Chairman, I'll make a motion. I'll make a motion to accept the minutes and the agenda.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second to accept the minutes and the agenda. All those in favor? Okay, that's unanimous.

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

Dave Black: Okay, next item on the agenda, number 3, will be informational, both 3 and 4 will be from Kevin, he'll give us a Wildlife Board update and a regional update.

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

Kevin Bunnell: The Wildlife Board meeting, remember the focus was on fishing regulations was the main item, and it was a relatively uneventful board meeting as board meetings go. We do have two of our board members here that have joined us tonight. We have Steve Dalton and Donnie Hunter so we'd like to welcome them to the meeting. Anything that you gentleman would like to add relative to our last board meeting? Okay. Sorry to put you on the spot but as a board member that's always a danger. So let me, and I will be brief on the regional update given the size of our agenda tonight but let me just hit a few highlights. We've got habitat projects going on all over the region, as has been the case for the last several years. There's more acres being treated in the southern region than all of the other regions in the state and we will maintain that momentum as we go forward. Our wildlife biologists are just getting started with deer classifications. If you've noticed in the last, just in the last week or so the deer have congregated on winter ranges and they are taking advantage of that to classify deer. I hope people are aware of the pheasant releases that are going on. We have 12 different locations around the region where we're doing weekly releases of some pheasants to provide hunting opportunity. There's a list of those on

our website. Typically we release birds on Friday afternoon so that they're available for people that have an opportunity to go hunt on Saturday and Sunday over the weekend. We have a bighorn sheep capture that will be going on later this week on the Zion. We'll be moving 20 bighorn sheep from the Zion unit over to the Pine Valley unit. And something to mark your calendars for, our second annual perch fishing tournament up at Fishlake is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>. If you remember last year, any of you that participated, it was a great event. It's something that is very beneficial to that fishery. We're trying to remove as many perch as we can out of there because they're stunted and over populated. I think last year we had, Blaine do you remember how many? Several hundred participants, 1,800 participants and I think we removed over 40,000 perch that day. And we would like to repeat that and even grow it if we can. Also, out of our fisheries section we had a very successful treatment down at Gunlock to remove some illegally stocked fish down there so there currently are not any fish in Gunlock reservoir. We will continue to evaluate if the nets continue showing up as empty, showing that we had a successful treatment we will restock that next summer. If it's determined that we didn't quite get a complete removal there will be one more treatment next year and that will put it another year away before there's a population of fish back in Gunlock. And again, that's a result of people trying to do what they think is a good thing by moving fish around. In the end they're just hurting the resource. We cannot have small mouth bass in Gunlock reservoir because of the conservation fish, some of the conservation issues that are down there and so that was the reason because of an illegal introduction of small mouth bass that we had to completely remove an entire fishery. And so please, if you have a chance to educate people about that issue take the time to do so. Ice is just starting to form on some of the reservoirs. It probably won't be safe for another couple of weeks but the cold temperatures that we're having will hopefully by the first part of December we'll have fishable ice on Panguitch and some of the other high elevation lakes. From our law enforcement section we've just been informed that we will be getting a new officer in our Panguitch District. He'll land in Panguitch in January and will spend year training in that area. And then our law enforcement guys are just starting their winter range patrols. This is the time of year when big bucks, in particular, are the most vulnerable. It's a time when some of the bad guys out there take advantage of that and we do everything we can to make sure that we're protecting those deer during this most vulnerable time of year. I don't have anything else to add unless there's questions from any of the members of the RAC.

Dale Bagley: Which units are you going to be flying this year for elk in the southern region?

Kevin Bunnell: We are flying all of the units except for, essentially everything west and then the Paunsagaunt. So we've got the Pahvant, the Beaver, the Panguitch, the Zion, and the Paunsagaunt. So everything except for kind of the mega unit as we've called it, the Fishlake, Boulder, Dutton and Monroe. Any other questions?

Dave Black: Thank you Kevin. Our first action item, before we get there let me just explain the meeting procedures. I'm sure many of you have been here before. We'll go through each of the presentations, after each presentation we'll have an opportunity for questions. There will be questions from the RAC first and then questions from the public. And at this time this is where we have the most confusion. We'd ask you to refrain from any comments at this time where you just have a clarification or a question on the presentation. And then we'll have a comment section, and for the public to provide a comment we'd ask you to fill out a comment card, give those to a DWR representative, they're passing those out now, they're yellow. Fill those out and then we'll call you up to let you have an opportunity for your comments. And if you're representing a group, an organized group we'll allow you 5 minutes. If it's an individual comment we will allow you 3 minutes. If you're just repeating another comment that we've



already heard you can maybe just summarize and show your support as well. We do have a large agenda item tonight so we want to move through these as quick as we can but we do want to hear your comments. And then we'll allow comments from the RAC and then we'd proceed to a RAC motion, discussion, and then a vote. So our first action item is item number 5 on the agenda, and that's the Waterfowl Recommendation and Rule Amendments for 2016, and Blair Stringham will be the presenter.

**Waterfowl Recommendation and Rule Amendments 2016 (action) 9:58 to 17:20 of 4:16:07**

**-Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator**

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

**Questions from the Public:**

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

None

**Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we do have one comment card and that's Lee Tracy. If you'd like to come up.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. We support the DWR's presentation, or the recommendations as presented. Thanks.

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

Craig Laub: I got, I should have asked you when the questions, some of these ranchers, they're farmers from Delta talked to me about Gunnison Bend reservoir, and the no shooting zone around it and they wanted to make a comment on it I thought. But do you guys want to, have you got? They didn't get their card in there. So . . .

Cade Riding: My name's Cade Riding. I'm from Delta. New this year was the no shooting areas. Gunnison Bend reservoir was put involved in that. From what I can gather speaking with Kody Jones who is our game warden there, they were having troubles with guys shooting too close to houses and stuff up in Ogden around Pine View reservoir, and that's kind of where this rule came about, from what we can understand. And basically Gunnison Bend reservoir was just kind of cut and pasted in there. I've got a map of what this affects. (Attachment 2) Yeah, there in the middle that's what's called Short Shores, that's housing. There's no agriculture hunting in there but just around the perimeter, that black line you can see what that takes in. That's some of our prime waterfowl ground really. And we as farmers, some of the guys that I've talked to that this affects feel like that, I mean we, the damage we see from the waterfowl during the summers it's kind of a benefit to us to get to hunt them during the winter. And so we would like to see if maybe that Gunnison Bend can be excluded from that no shooting area and that law changed for us. Especially with the snow geese, that late snow goose hunt, that really affects

a lot of our property there too. So um, any questions from you guys I'd be happy to answer.

Dave Black: Yeah, I think we'll want a comment from Blair. Does anybody have any questions for Cade before he sits down?

Brian Johnson: Yeah. I'm just not clear what you were asking for, what you want to include in that.

Cade Riding: Well Gunnison Bend reservoir has, was lumped in with the no shooting area. And the no shooting area is 600 feet from the edge of the reservoir there's no shooting. And that 600-foot takes in a lot of our prime hunting ground.

Brian Johnson: So I guess, on this map, where would you cut this off? I mean because you've got houses in the center of this which . . .

Cade Riding: Yeah, those, there's no agriculture or hunting over there.

Brian Johnson: Are you just talking the top? The top piece that comes around or?

Cade Riding: Yeah, I mean you can see the black line is basically, is basically the 600 foot mark and everything between there and the reservoir, you can see kind of the bank of the reservoir, that's no hunting. We can't hunt that any more.

Kevin Bunnell: Brian, what he is asking is to remove that black line completely from all the way around.

Cade Riding: Just go back to the way it was. Gunnison Bend reservoir is a bird, is a refuge anyway. We can't hunt the reservoir but that kind of limits us on our good hunting ground there.

Blair Stringham: Mr. Chairman, if you will, if I can comment on that a little bit.

Dave Black: Yes, please.

Blair Stringham: Okay. What we did last year is we went through and tried to redefine our no shooting areas and our rest areas. Unfortunately one of the things that did slip through the cracks was that 600-foot buffer around Gunnison Bend. And so this wasn't actually brought to our attention until after the season had started, the guidebooks are printed and so having discussed it with Cody Jones as well as Lynn Zubeck, the intent was to have the high water mark be the actual boundary. And so, from the high water mark down you wouldn't be able to hunt pheasants or ducks or anything like that. But outside of that high water mark you'd be able to discharge firearms and hunt. And so that was what the intent was, it just unfortunately wasn't clarified in our rule and our guidebook. And so we'll likely be making that change in the future. I don't know if you want to comment on that or not.

Cade Riding: I wasn't aware of any of that. Like I say, from what I understood it was just kind of a misprint I guess, or just over looked basically. So yeah, I'm good with that.

Dave Black: So you are good with that? That meets your concern?

Cade Riding: Yeah the high water mark, I mean we've never hunted that anyway. That's pretty much, I

mean when the reservoir, this time of year the reservoir is down but I mean there's mud and stuff. We kind of know where to hunt and stuff. So yeah, that would be just going back to the way it was.

Dave Black: So Blair, do we need to put that into a motion or will that be taken care of by itself and we don't need to address it?

Blair Stringham: We plan to take care of it but it wouldn't hurt to make a motion as well just to have it on record.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll uh, try to include that in our motion then as well. Any questions for Cade? I do have one more comment card on this same item. Kris.

Kris Bunker: Kris Bunker. I'm on the uh, basically the whole east side of your map on the Gunnison Bend reservoir. We farm that whole, there's probably a mile that there's not even a house. And so I farm pretty much right up to the, well I wouldn't say the water but across the little roadway probably 10 to 15 feet from the waterway. Anyway, when I plant wheat or any type of a grain crop the geese just come up and especially in the spring the snow goose hunt, that one is really bad for us. If we can't shoot that close to the water I have significant crop damage. And I just, Cade did a good job and I have young kids so I apologize or I would have come up with him. But anyway, so that's just clarification on the same topic. Basically the same thing Cade mentioned.

Dave Black: Okay, so this does take care of your concern as well.

Kris Bunker: Correct.

Dave Black: All right, okay. Thank you. Okay, do we have any other comments from the RAC? Nick?

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Nick Jorgensen: Blair, if you were to make changes there how soon would we be able to make them?

Blair Stringham: It probably wouldn't be until next year. But we'll look at trying to get it done in time for the 2016-17 waterfowl season.

Nick Jorgensen: Okay.

Dave Black: Okay, I think we're ready to entertain a motion if somebody would like to formulate that. Nick.

Nick Jorgensen: I'll make a motion that we approve the request as it was stated here and the recommended changes.

Dave Black: Okay, so, let me clarify. We have a motion to accept the waterfowl recommendations as presented with the exception that we would include the recommended changes and so we probably need to spell those out. Can you help us with that Kevin?

Kevin Bunnell: Clarify the closure at Gunnison Bend to be the high water mark.

Dave Black: Okay, and clarify the closure at Gunnison Bend reservoir to be the high water mark. Does that meet your intent Nick, of your motion?

Nick Jorgensen: Yes sir.

Dave Black: And we have a second from Craig. Okay, is there any discussion on the motion?

Brayden Richmond: I just have a discussion/ question. The snow goose sounds like it's really the problem there on those fields. Blair said that this would probably be the 2016-17 season? The snow goose is far enough away I'm wondering if the Big Game Board approved this if we can make an exception for this year. It seems like a logical exception. It was an over sight. Why couldn't we get it done?

Kevin Bunnell: Brayden, I think it would be um, the director has the authority to make emergency changes if there's a compelling reason. So if you want to include that, that the, to ask the director to consider making an emergency change prior to this year's snow goose festival then at least it puts that on his radar screen. Can't promise what will happen but it wouldn't be a bad idea to at least put that out there.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, then I would like to make an amendment to the motion to try to get this fixed this year.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second on the amendment?

Brian Johnson: I'll second it.

Dave Black: Okay, I have a second from Brian. Any discussion on the amendment? Okay. Let's vote on the amendment first. All those in favor? Unanimous.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. So now we will vote on the motion. And I don't think we need to read that again. So all those in favor of the motion? The main motion? Okay, that was unanimous as well. Thank you.

**Nick Jorgensen made the motion to accept the Waterfowl Recommendation and Rule Amendments 2016 as presented with the exception to clarify the Gunnison Bend closure to be the high watermark. Layne Torgerson seconded. Brayden Richmond made an amendment to the motion to have the director make an emergency change to clarify the no shooting zone prior to the 2016 Snow Goose hunt. Brian Johnson seconded. Amended motion passed unanimously. Original motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move on to the next agenda item which is number 6 on your agenda, which is the Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions, and that will be Justin Shannon presenting.

**Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions (action) 28:32 to 43:45 of 4:16:07**

**-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave black: Okay, thank you Justin. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Wade.

Wade Heaton: This is kind of a dumb question Justin but the private land permits that we've started, the private land only, those are not going to be valid on CWMU private land? That will still be a separate unit.

Justin Shannon: No. Correct, yeah because we get antlerless harvest through a different mechanism that way. Great question Wade.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll trade ends each time. Somebody down here? Do you have a questions?

Layne Torgerson: Justin, just for a question for clarification I think.... When we were on the committee we talked this mid season trophy bull hunt that would coincide with the spike hunt. I know that one of the questions that came up when we were talking about that was, that that would be a minimum number of permits on select units, correct?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, I think the idea with that is we're not going to try this on every unit in the state. So the number of units that we actually try this on we're going to start small. And Layne you're right; as we come through in the spring with permit recommendations the idea isn't to necessarily flood those early October hunts either. So yeah. But you'll, I mean this RAC will have a chance to weigh in on that permit distribution.

Dave Black: Okay, question on this end down here. Uh, Nick.

Nick Jorgensen: Help me understand where I am new to the RAC, how do you mitigate the impact of oil, gas and mining on an elk population?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so that's a good question. I mean there's some timing issues on when drilling may or may not occur, different things like that. How drilling is conducted, um, . . . What's that?

Kevin Bunnell: Road networks.

Justin Shannon: Oh yeah. Yeah I mean where the pads are placed; how to get to them, those types of things. And it's just to work through those issues and to keep elk in elk habitat in mind as these activities are taking place. And each region has habitat biologists that deal with this and could probably speak to it much better than I can.

Nick Jorgensen: And one question that is even more naïve than that one has to do with how do you tell the difference between and six and a half year old bull and a seven and a half year old bull, when you're out hunting?

Justin Shannon: I think it's tough on the hoof. But once a bull is harvested we have them submit a tooth

and then we age each of these limited entry bull elk with the teeth, the rings on that. So yeah, it's all post harvest. You're right it is tough in the field to always know exactly the age.

Dave Black: Okay, Brian.

Brian Johnson: I'm sure that we'll be going through this in the next agenda item on which units are going to have that mid season elk, that's the next? I just want to make sure we're going to go through each one, whichever ones you guys are proposing for those, right?

Justin Shannon: This is just . . .

Brian Johnson: It's just broad; this is just broad strokes here.

Justin Shannon: Should we have it or not? I mean is this something we want in the plan, yea or nah.

Dave Black: Okay, Gene do you have a questions?

Gene Boardman: In some of the literature that I have had on this elk plan talks about the possibility of 3 permits, 3 elk permits per year for certain people. You didn't really address that. Are we that hard up on finding elk hunters that we need to issue 3?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, yeah, um, you'll see that, I'm not trying to pass the buck but you'll see that in the next presentation as well on the break down of those permits and probably a better time. But yeah, this plan just introduces the concepts, should we be increasing the number of cow elk permit a hunter may harvest annually.

Dave Black: Craig.

Craig Laub: Yeah, my question is on the private landowner tags, so the elk tend to be pretty mobile, they can be on private property and in the next county in a few minutes. How does that work?

Justin Shannon: I think what it is is, in many pockets in the state we have elk that are congregating on private lands and in many cases the private land owners aren't interested in having elk congregate on those lands. And so what it does is it's a management tool for those private land owners to be able to get harvest on these elk and either reduce those numbers or to just like you said, to push them off of their property to areas that public hunters might have better access to them.

Craig Laub: So the landowners, I mean you'll go to the DWR to buy a tag and then the landowners will probably have to probably pay them to hunt or they'll want them to come get rid of them.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, that's going to be up to each individual landowner because if the landowner's really having a lot of elk problems on them, or her, then let the public in and get some harvest or harvest those elk yourself to the extent that you can with these private lands only permits. Um, it's really just a way to help them manage for elk on their property if they want them or not. And the other nice thing it does is before we had this option it was we'll just add more permits or do the depredation mitigation program which will still be in place but then you've got to come to the division, show damages, do those types of things to get those permits. So this is just streamlining that process for private landowners.

Craig Laub: My experience with that until they got fenced off is the elk were there and you went to get them and they went onto public land. Can they go onto public land to get them because they'll be gone? At least in my experience with trying to get elk on private property was, on my private property was pretty tough.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. Again, the details of this will be worked out in the next presentation with the rule change and the recommendations. But to answer your question, no, you wouldn't be able to go off of private land and hunt public land. This is to help private landowners that have elk congregating on the private land.

Craig Laub: Well they'll chase them off but I'll be you they don't get them there. At least that was my experience.

Justin Shannon: But with that said, we have public hunts as well and it's just an opportunity for a public hunter to harvest it then as well.

Kevin Bunnell: So Justin, just to clarify.. . The private land only hunts, and I think this is where there's some confusion, the way it's currently presented does not allow for a buffer like our depredation hunts do.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, there will not be a buffer zone.

Kevin Bunnell: As it's being recommended.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and again, more detail in the next power point, but yeah.

Dave Black: Okay, do you have a question Mack?

Mack Morrell: I didn't see a member of the Forest Service on your committee.

Justin Shannon: There was. Yeah, um, Dan Abata; he's one the RAC.

Dave Black: Brian.

Brian Johnson: During the elk committee meetings, in other states on private land they offer a voucher where the tag costs say \$50.00 and then they turn the voucher into the Division and they get \$14.00 or \$15.00 back for damage. Did you guys discuss any options like that? I mean it seems like that private land tag would be a perfect opportunity to have a landowner voucher for harvest to try to put some of that money back into some of these landowner's pockets that have been harmed by this wildlife to increase the motivation to let them hunt. Did that even come up?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so what we wanted to do, um, where we create the private lands permit, that was step one, put that in place. And then we wanted to investigate an incentive program for landowners to qualify for bull elk permits, which really doesn't address what you're getting at but we're trying to find ways to incentivize private landowners to allow harvest on their property. And then the third one, I think this is where it fits Brian, is review the eligibility requirements for landowner incentive programs to

increase cow elk harvest. So you know it's not a recommendation tonight but it's . . .

Brian Johnson: No, just as long as the door is open in the plan is what I'm asking. As long as that door is open we can add it later because seven years is a long time and I want to make sure we can . . . Okay.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. You know it was really nice because this committee, and Layne correct me if I'm wrong, Layne was a member of it and did a great job, the spirit of this committee and the planning process was let's solve some problems let's not put up so many difficult sideboards and jump through hoops. If landowners are having issues and elk distribution is off let's give the wildlife biologists the tools they need to get elk to objective and to get the distribution of elk right on the landscape. And so lots of things we'll be exploring Brain,

Dave Black: Do I have any other questions down this way? How about over there, Gene?

Gene Boardman: On this Panguitch Lake, Dutton, Monroe gathering are we increasing permits on Dutton and Panguitch Lake there, I mean are we increasing the age objective on the Dutton and Panguitch Lake?

Justin Shannon: Yes we are. So Mt Dutton and Panguitch Lake before were managed for a 5 ½ to 6-year-old bull, and now they will be managed for a 6 ½ to 7- year-old bull.

Gene Boardman: What's that going to do for number of permits?

Justin Shannon: I would have to look real quick; I'm not sure off the top of my head. I mean I can pull it up and see what we did last year.

Gene Boardman: But it would reduce them, right?

Justin Shannon: Potentially. Yeah, I mean in some of these 5 ½ to 6-year-old units we were exceeding in some cases and so even if they do result in decreases it may not be that drastic because most of our 5 ½ to 6- year-old units are either at or exceeding that age objective. It wouldn't surprise me if there's a cut on those but I can dig through and give you exact permit numbers and tell you where the ages are if you'd like me to.

Gene Boardman: Thank you.

Justin Shannon: Let's answer that real quick. Come on up Josh.

Josh Pollock: The 3 year average for both the Dutton and Panguitch Lake is right at 5.8 so it's already almost just right at 6. So there probably would be a slight reduction but I would imagine not by much because it's almost at 6 now.

Dave Black: Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Justin on the spike trigger, the 20% statewide, if you go below that you'll decrease tags? Where are you normally at on that?



Justin Shannon: Uh, generally we about 13 – 15 % harvest on those units. So it's if we exceed, if we go over 20% then we cut the permits. It's kind of a safety net to make sure we're not harvesting too many spikes.

Rusty Aiken: Still got a ways to go.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and if I presented that wrong I apologize because it was intended to say greater than 20%.

Dave Black: Dale.

Dale Bagley: Is that 20% an average of all of the units or can we be unit specific on that 20%? Or probably not where they're a statewide spike tag I guess.

Justin Shannon: It's a statewide spike tag, yeah.

Dave Black: Okay if that's all the questions from the RAC we'll open it up to questions from the public.

### **Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Remember this is just the question section and we'll save your comments with your comment cards. So if you have a question please come forward.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. I noticed particularly those unit committees, uh, it seems to be loaded with people who have a financial interest in managing elk with two possible sportsman who are not. My question is, I have several . . . who chooses those people? And is it possible for an individual to petition to be on that committee?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so the regions would decide who that committee, what that committee make up is going to be. I mean if there is interest certainly you can be solicited. That doesn't necessarily mean that that individual would make the committee. Often times when these are put together there's a lot of interest to try to be on and so it's just balancing the right dynamic, making sure that the perspectives and view points are going to be there. What we're looking for is diverse input on these things so that's really the goal.

Kevin Bunnell: One other clarification there, when it's a representative from a particular sportsman group we don't choose them, we ask the sportsman group to nominate someone to represent them. So there's actually very few of them that we choose other than we ask the groups to be represented who they would like to have represent them.

Lee Tracy: Well maybe . . . I'll make my comment later.

Dave Black: Please state your name.

Steven Yardley: I'm Steven Yardley and I was uh, a couple of questions. One was on those private permits if you already have a CWMU on that land will there be an opportunity to get some of those private tags as well?

Justin Shannon: I think the best way to handle that would be just, we have an antlerless permit recommendation for CWMUs and so if that CWMU operator wanted more antlerless harvest on his or her property I think that would be the avenue to do that.

Steven Yardley: And how many acres are you thinking that will be required for each antlerless?

Justin Shannon: This is very . . .it doesn't matter, if you have 20 acres and you have elk on you and you want to harvest an elk you just get a permit over the counter for that unit and you would harvest elk within the boundaries of that private land. It's not something that has to be worked out between the division biologist and the landowner. It's just if you have private lands and you have elk on you and you don't want them there you can get a permit and allow for some harvest there.

Steven Yardley: Then my last question is on the Panguitch Lake unit, when you talked about increasing the age for the elk, for the trophy elk, is that going to increase the elk herds on that unit as well?

Justin Shannon: No, that's just talking about the quality of bull that we harvested. That population objective, the statewide elk committee didn't tackle. Any unit plan that may be addressed but we didn't address individual population objectives on any unit in the state.

Jason Aiken: Jason Aiken. I have a question on the mid season elk hunt. So this one's only recommended on a couple of units. Why only on a few units and not try it throughout the state?

Justin Shannon: So, this will be part of the next presentation, the exact units that we recommend them on. But again, the idea is to start slow because it is a limited entry elk hunt that's going to overlap the spike hunt and lots of cow elk hunts. And so there might be potential for conflict, hunters may not like it. And so the concept is if you start slow, and I'm eager to get the feedback from those hunters, was it a good experience, what were you up against, what were your challenges? And also, from our law enforcement and other things like that. I just don't know what that dynamic is going to look like and so I'd rather start slow and be able to pull back or increase as needed. So it's just the concept.

Jason Aiken: Okay thanks, and then on the private land cow tags so are those, are those going to be statewide? I mean those, private land is private land, it doesn't matter what unit or any of that kind of deal? Is it, is that private land tag going to be good for any private land other than, well you said a CWMU?

Justin Shannon: Uh, no, the answer is no. So what we'd do is take a unit like the Wasatch unit, we would issue, and again I hate to throw out numbers, X amount of permits on that unit for private lands only permits. And then you can only harvest cow elk on private lands within that given unit. And there might be units where this doesn't even apply, that we don't need it. But in areas where the distribution of elk is really off, and we have them, again it's just a management option to redistribute these elk. So it won't be statewide.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. Did the elk committee discuss any emergency programs, emergency harvest in relation to sage grouse?

Justin Shannon: No not specifically for sage grouse.

John Keeler: And did they discuss it in relationship to aspen regeneration?

Justin Shannon: Um, not specifically aspen but there was a habitat component; it talks about managing elk appropriately within those habitats. And we focused a lot on habitat restoration. So we want to treat about 40,000 acres annually. And in the plan, I didn't bring up each strategy, but aspen is one of those areas that we want to focus on both for summer range and calving.

John Keeler: I noticed that in the first part of the presentation as it relates to drought conditions that you would take up the subject in August.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and that's something we have been doing but it was never like a formalized process. And what we have is in the spring the biologists would come with their permit recommendations and then there was a lot of conversation about well let's add more permits because what if there's drought, what if we don't get the precip. And so instead of forcing a wildlife manager, biologist to forecast the next 3 or 4 months it's look at it, if there are drought conditions then we have an avenue to go back to the board each August and say, you know, unit 1,2 and 3 here are really struggling with drought we recommend 300 more cow elk permits to give some relief. So that's the idea.

John Keeler: What about a fire, either a natural fire or a prescribed fire that needed some protection before August?

Justin Shannon: I think Kevin brought it up earlier that our director has the ability to make some adjustments to these hunts on an emergency basis and I think fire falls somewhere in there, especially if it's catastrophic.

John Keeler: It wouldn't have to go to the Wildlife Board or?

Justin Shannon: If we have the avenue to . . . Here's the philosophy with it, if we have an option to take any permit recommendation through the RAC and Board process we would prefer that but in emergency situations our director has the ability to adjust these things.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll open up the comment section now.

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

Dave Black: As we call your name come forward. Remember if you're representing a group and we only ask one representative per group, you have 5 minutes. If you're representing yourself you have 3 minutes. And the first one is Mike Twitchell.

Mike Twitchell: Mike Twitchell with the Utah Bowman's Association. I'd just like to recognize that the Utah Bowman's Association supports the statewide elk plan as presented by the Division.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul Neimeyer followed by John Keeler.

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Niemeyer representing Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife both the parent body and also the Sevier Wayne chapter. And we support the DWR recommendations on the elk management

plan with one exception, and that is on the Monroe. There's a recommendation to move it down to a 6 ½ to a 7-year-old bull where it was a 7 ½ to 8, we want it to go back up to what it was a year ago, which would be 7 ½ to 8. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you, John, followed by Mark Winch, followed by Gib Yardley.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. In me asking the questions earlier one of our concerns is with these sensitive species and or sensitive areas of plants, aspen. By law the Forest Service, if there's a resource concern they have to immediately reduce livestock. And especially the Monroe mountain working group, they had approached the RACs and the Wildlife Board and asked them to have a process in place so that if there's an emergency declaration with that resource that it be done in a very timely manner. And that's our concern is that it is done in a very timely manner because the livestock are going to be immediately removed.

Dave Black: Thank you, so Mark followed by Gib. Is Mark here? Mark Winch? Okay.

Steven Yardley: I'm Steven Yardley representing the Beaver County Cattleman. And I'd like to applaud the state for the ideas they have for reducing the elk numbers. We've had a significant increase in the number of elk throughout the state. And I think the increase in elk has far surpassed the amount of habitat restoration that's occurred to support that kind of an increase. I'd like to see in this 7 year elk plan the numbers kept at or reduced from the target numbers and not see this continual increase that we've seen year after year. It has a lot of devastating impacts on the habitat and we as cattleman and livestock owners are forced to deal with them. We rely on this range in a way that it's literally our livelihood and we don't want to see the range health compromised because the elk are there. Now year after year we have a set amount of permits that we are allowed to use on our public ground and year after year we have an amount of cattle that we can put on our private ground. That number does not continually increase, yes it increases some when we improve the habitat and the range conditions but now significantly year after year after year. Every year we have to sell our heifer calves and sell off calves so that we can maintain our herds to a healthy state for both themselves and for the habitat in which they engage so there is plenty of vegetation for the other animals, the other wildlife there as well.. And I don't think it's asking too much of the division of wildlife to do the same with their elk numbers. Out on the west deserts we are also faced with a lot of these wild horses and they are very detrimental to the ranges as well. But between the elk and the wild horses we have some pastures that we've put a lot of money into doing range restoration projects where we didn't receive any help and we haven't been able to use those pastures for several years because the elk and wild horses are there. And that's very frustrating. And it's had a very negative impact on the rangeland and on the habitat and on the watersheds there. And so as a state we have the responsibility and everyone on the board has the responsibility to make sure that the rangeland and the watersheds, which are our most crucial assets, and long lasting asset, aren't damaged or disrupted because of over population of elk. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Next is Mike Ahlstrom followed by Jesse Hatch.

Mike Ahlstrom: I am just here representing myself. Overall I really do support the elk plan. I think there's a lot of improvement. I love the fact that the biologists in individual areas will now have more ability to make changes and to manage individual units rather than a plan, a balloon plan over everything. I have some concerns with that though in that we can give a control permit on a unit like the Dutton and then we don't fly that the following year or that year to find out what the true harvest is or

what our counts actually are. I don't know how that's possible. I know it was stated earlier that we're flying units kind of the west part there, the Panguitch and the Beaver. The Dutton is not a part of that. I would like to see the Dutton flown and counted so we actually know what we're dealing with. Everybody says there's not enough range and whatnot but there's, I've been on there all week the last couple of weeks and there's a lot of range on the Dutton. I love the ideas of the limited entry hunt during the spike, spread those tags out. I'd like to see that during all of the hunts, you know, on all of the units not just a couple. And uh, thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you, Jesse, followed by Lee Tracy.

Jesse Hatch: I'm Jesse Hatch. I'm just here representing myself. I have to disagree on saying that our elk are doing well, especially on the Boulder and the Dutton. I spend an awful lot of time on those two units. Our elk have decreased by a thousand over there. I mean literally it's nothing what it was ten years ago. You see more cattle over there than anything. You guys want to have all this quality, or quality and sell these tags at high numbers at these auctions and have trophy hunts and you have these people that wait 18 to 20 years to draw a tag and then you want to kill all these spikes, pregnant cows, you can't have your cake and eat it too. You can't kill all your spikes, you can't kill pregnant cows, and you can't have monster bulls. It's not going to happen. Another thing is with the counts; we don't know what the count is. We haven't flown it for a long time. Besides that the Dutton is a unit where you get a lot of elk from the Beaver, from the Monroe, from the Boulder. In fact I would say the majority of the elk off the west slope of the Boulder are on the Dutton in the wintertime. So that count is not that accurate. Another thing is I mean I think we look at, I mean the average price of tags on the Boulder last year was upwards of \$40,000.00. If you're going to continue to have a quality hunt and get that kind of money out of those tags you've got to up the objectives on these elk and let them grow. I mean if you want to wait 18 years to have quality you're not going to have it. I guess I just don't understand that. Um, we run 8,340 head of cattle on the Boulder, that's just on the forestland. We manage for 1,500 elk. And I'd like to see a better balance in there. I just see the elk are kind of getting the shaft on that, if they're running 5 ½ times the number of cattle as we get elk and we're putting all this money into land projects and doing everything over there which benefit cattle and elk, but I'd like to see a better balance there. These control permits you're killing elk off of all of these units not just the Dutton. On the, if we do this control permit on the Dutton you're killing elk off the Beaver, the Monroe, the Boulder and the majority are Paunsagaunt elk are on the Dutton on the winter. The thing I look at is we all benefit from elk. We all can hunt elk. If we have our numbers up and our objectives higher we can all get tags. We can fill our freezers with elk. We can eat elk. The way it is now it's bad. You don't have the number of elk, you're not having the amount of success. And so a lot of people aren't eating cow elk anymore because the success is down. I think that's it, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank y you. So Lee Tracy followed by Bryce Pilling.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. United Wildlife Cooperative supports the plan that has been presented. But we would like a consideration, and I don't know if you could put that in the plan or if it's just an individual regional thing, but I mentioned earlier that those committees are primarily made up of at least the sportsman side of it are made up of representatives from units that have a financial interest either in the Expo tags or the Conservation tags. And that mentality or that consideration is difficult to deal with. I was on the mule deer committee and we put our a survey and we found out that 79 % of the mule deer hunters in the state of Utah do not currently belong to any organization, with 58% of them never having belonged to any organization. I just want to make sure that

they are represented. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Bryce Pilling: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Bryce Pilling, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. We accept the division's recommendation on the elk plan as presented with the exception of the Monroe age class and we recommend leaving it currently with no change. Thank you.

Dave Black: That concludes all the comment cards. Do we have any comments from the RAC? No, we called your name at least twice. I'm sorry; we'll give you an opportunity to come up now.

Kevin Bunnell: Gib, it was your son or grandson that took your spot so you need to get after him for that. When we called your name he came up.

Gib Yardley: That was my son. I think that you really need to look very seriously at the increase number of these elk. These cows have so many calves and we're not keeping up with the increase at all in the harvest of these elk. They're going every place. They're having such a time in a lot of these farms that they're practically ruining a lot of these farms. I run on the Beaver over around Monroe, and we've got to take more of these elk off or they're going to just destroy the resource. And I think that you need to really but very seriously at these numbers. We've let them just increase, increase, and increase until they're getting too many for the resource. And it's the same all over the west desert where we run; there's so many out there it's like my son said, we have a heck of a problem. I don't think that we're getting an accurate count on these elk. I don't think they haven't been counted for 3 or 4 years most places have they? Have they had counts on them?

Kevin Bunnell: We haven't had the counts for a couple years because we haven't had the snow conditions to do it. We're hopeful that this year that changes.

Gib Yardley: Well we're supposed to have some sheep man or cow man with them on those counts and the years they go and don't pick those men up when they been ready to go. Now while I'm up here I want to just talk on a couple of more subjects real quick. But one is that all of you sportsman and all of you people, the DWR better watch this wolf thing. Because I'm not sure we kind of think that they're planting them wolves over around Beaver. And if you want to have an elk herd or deer herd then you better be opposed to these elk. Yellowstone Park had one of the largest elk herds in the world, over 20,000 head when they brought those wolves in there. Now it's down to about 5,000 and they hardly raise any calves and they don't raise any fawns. These elk are something that we've got to resist. And I think that we ought to have the state put a big high bounty on these elk, on these wolves I mean, and kill them and give people a bounty on them. Excuse me I should have turned that thing off. (phone rings). But they are a heck of a problem and they're going to be for livestock and all the game there is. So we need to be really on the look out and try to stop the spread of these things. Sorry about that (phone rings) They don't give up some times. Uh, that's right.

Dave Black: It's your wife.

Gib Yardley: No, it's my hired man. I hope he isn't stuck in the snow over there. We've got 13 inches of snow over there to Beaver, the most of any place in Utah. They (unintelligible) with the freeway closed last night and we've had quite a time over there. Anyway, one more thing I want to mention, we really

resent the Utah Fish and Game department transplanting all these species all over. We feel that you transplant a lot of bear on the Beaver Mountain. We never used to have a bear there 15 or 20 years ago and now they're thick. We think that they planted these wolves there. You've caught those antelope and spread them all over and turned them loose every place. I just never had an antelope on a place I've got over north of Beaver. The other day I went out and there were 40 of them, right on my private land. And it just increases all the time. So I think you should put a stop to all these transplants and let people harvest them through hunting. Thank you very much.

Dave Black: Thank you Gib. We do have one more card as well, Riley Roberts.

Riley Roberts: Riley Roberts representing myself. I know the time for questions is over, is it alright if I ask a few questions as well just for clarification on the elk plan? I know we talked about some individual committees, individual unit committees, is that going to take place and if so when?

Justin Shannon: So was the question are individual committees going to be put together and when?

Riley Roberts: Individual unit committees, yes.

Justin Shannon: So . . .

Riley Roberts: I know we had those several years ago and so I know it was in the plan but . .

Justin Shannon: What we're instructed to do is we make, as we go through the unit plan processes if there's going to be adjustments made, higher or lower or any conversations like that that might be going forward we put a committee together to investigate that. So not every elk plan, unit plan in the state would have a committee. Some might be done via open houses, those types of things. Biologists and managers are instructed to get public input and if it warrants a committee we'll do it but there won't be a committee for every unit.

Riley Roberts: Thank you. That was my misunderstanding. I was pretty excited for a moment; I thought that there were going to be individual unit committees on each one which is very exciting to me because that's something I'm very passionate about. I'm an elk hauler. I love elk. I know some of the members on the RAC know me. They know that I am very passionate about that. I'm excited overall for the elk plan. There are a few concerns; some of those that Mr. (unintelligible) expressed as well. Being able to manage that knowing those counts, really understanding those individual units that we have right now already currently set up throughout the state from the north to the south and the migration patterns of these animals, that really needs to be taken into consideration when we look at the overall objectives. According to the numbers, the actual numbers of elk in the state, those numbers are down so the elk aren't increasing as some might make you believe they are; they're not, they're down overall. So with that I would also like to have presented at these times why we can't increase that objective. We know it's always about habitat and wildlife and we can't exist with the livestock, and the elk are eating all the feed. And we don't have anything presented tonight, this evening, saying that we can't increase the overall objective of the elk across the state anyway. I would like to see those numbers. I think that's something that would be informative for the RAC as well as for myself to see why we can't increase those numbers, especially as an overall state elk plan. That's why I really would suggest that you look at doing those individual committees with every unit because you can't take an overall plan and have it affect, especially on units where there's so much crossover as has been mentioned on the Dutton and

with the Boulder. But overall we appreciate your work. We thank you for what you're doing but there are some key things that I think that need to be addressed before this is moved on. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Before we turn comments over to the RAC just let me summarize real quick the comment cards that we did receive. We have heard a number of comments so I'd just like to summarize those real quick. The Utah Bowman's Association supports the plan as presented. SFW supports the plan with the exception that they would like to keep the Monroe unit age objective the same as it has been. Utah Farm Bureau, they would like to include a mechanism to address emergency resource issues such as fire or drought. The Beaver Cattleman believe there are too many elk, do not increase objectives, and we should reduce objectives. Mike Ahlstrom supports the plan however he thinks we need to fly more often and he also supports the mid season hunt. Jesse Hatch believes that there's been a decrease of elk on the Dutton and the Boulder, also we need to fly and count more often, and he'd like to see an increase in the population objectives. Utah Wildlife Cooperative supports the plan as presented but would like to have consideration to be on unit committees. Gib Yardley believes that the elk populations are increasing and they need to be controlled, the counts are not accurate and they need to be conducted more often. Riley Roberts would like to see all the units have committees, count the elk more often, believes the elk numbers are down as a whole statewide and that the objectives should be increased on some of the units. So that summarizes the comment cards and I'll turn time over to the RAC for comments now.

#### **RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have comments on the left? Okay, Sean.

Sean Kelly: John Keeler already alluded to this but aspen regeneration is a high priority for the Forest Service particularly on the Fishlake and the Dixie. We were also really interested in having a mechanism to address problems, as we did these big projects we have planned to make sure that aspen has a chance to get up and going. We did have a representative on the committee and we appreciate the division letting us have that input. We have a really good working relationship with the division here especially in Southern Utah and we feel satisfied that if we do have an issue that the mechanisms will be in place with the plan as it's written to address that.

(Mike Worthen came in)

Dave Black: Okay, on my right, Dale?

Dale Bagley: I've got a quick question more than a comment. On the control permits, like on Dutton, when you draw a cow tag you do an antlerless survey or is there that mechanism on the control permits? Do we not do a antlerless survey so we know what the kill is on those?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, we certainly do survey those antlerless elk control permit holders, yes. I don't think it's been finalized yet. I don't think that survey is done for this fall's hunts. But we do gather that information each winter.

Dave Black: Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I would just like to make one comment. There was a lot of hours spent on this plan by



a lot of very, a very diverse group of people represented from agriculture, to the Forest Service, to BLM, to sportsman's groups and the Division. And to address some of the concerns that I heard from the comments, there's some mechanisms that we specifically spent a lot of time on when we were putting this plan together to address Mr. Yardley's concerns with the elk problems and to mitigate those so that the individual biologists have those tools; that was one of our main objectives was to give the individual biologists the tools to mitigate those landowner problems that we have with ranchers and with livestockmen. So when you do have a problem Gib the division could jump on it and go take care of those problems; and those tools are in this plan. And we spent, Justin correct me if I'm wrong, but I think about 3 meetings talking about that. I mean, pretty much 3 of the 5 meetings was spent on landowner issues and livestock and depredation and how we're going to get around that. So I felt really good about what the outcome of those meetings and I just hope that we can get the support to approve this plan. Thanks.

Dave Black: Okay, on my left, Wade, or Gene.

Gene Boardman: With regards to the 3 units in the Southern Region that you planned to change the age objective on, there's a lot of kickback against lowering the Monroe. Raising the other two units I think will cut back on sportsman's opportunities to hunt there. I don't like the age objective in the first place. The bulls don't care about the age objective. We killed a 5-point bull that wouldn't score 270 this year and he was full mouthed. There was another good 5-point bull killed there that was also full mouthed. And I think that there are a lot of us, we were happy with this bull but a lot of people wouldn't be happy with him but there are a lot of us that are happy with them too. And we do, we like the hunting opportunity. Thank you.

Dave Black: Mack.

Mack Morrell: On the elk winter range, I think we just address habitat on the summer and not the winter range. And uh, particularly on the Parker Mountain sage grouse from Highway 24 running south, last time they counted elk there was 900 plus, just in one area. And one of the main problems with the sage grouse is they don't like em to be disturbed. With all the antelope we have out there and all the elk wintering there's a big disturbance on sage grouse. I think we need to address that. I know elk winter where they want to go. But they're going to be a problem with the sage grouse on that unit, on the Parker. If we keep having all these elk wintering there from Fishlake, Boulder and everywhere they come from, cause last time we counted near Cedar Peak and Flat Tops there was 900 head right in prime winter range with sage grouse. I think we need to address that. As far as the Boulders go we're over objective. On our cow herd we have 4 grazing units we rotate. The Forest Service every 5 years has a habitat study. On the Big Lake unit alone last year, or last, I should say this spring, they said they did a range study and the trend was down. We run on that unit for 35 days. The elk are there year round. So that's one thing we're going to have to address during the hunting next spring. Thank you.

Dave Black: Brian.

Brian Johnson: I am certain that there were hours of discussion, and maybe name calling, when the Monroe unit was brought up during this plan. And I'm sitting here and I hear people say Monroe, Monroe, Monroe and I haven't heard anybody say anything about the fact that they raised the two other units that are adjacent to it to kind of come up with an even compromise. And as I look at what you guys went through this is kind of a question and a comment all together for you were there and I wasn't, but

the Monroe is extremely assessable to the point that we don't even rifle hunt spikes there any more and yet we want to keep it at the highest tier, some of these organizations want to keep it at the highest tier. I think that this elk committee might have got it right saying let's bring it down a notch and bring the other two up a notch and kind of find some middle ground there. I think that we probably ought to; I think it warrants a discussion with this RAC before we make a motion is all I'm saying. So I'm, I think we ought to open that can of worms.

Dave Black: Just as a comment one of the things we may do is make a motion to accept the plan and then we could deal with some individual items like the, as an amendment where we have a discussion just on that and it might be easy to break that up that way. So I think maybe that's what we'll do as you make your motion if that sounds good. But let's finish the comment section. Wade.

Wade Heaton: I think that really hats off to the committee and Justin for the work they did on this. I mean let's keep in mind this is the general plan we're working on. We're not really working on a lot of specifics and I think they've done a good job of taking some sideboards off, having an open mind, looking at the real issues and then giving us some options. And I think whatever surgeon of common sense came up with the state objective being the sum of unit objectives; I've been dumbfounded for 5 years as to why that has not been the case in the past. So it's a tremendous thing, thank you. And I think we're just, we're headed in the right direction with expanding some seasons, just trying to disperse hunters, the three season, that mid season idea is great, the landowner permits, these private land permits. . . I just think we are giving ourselves some tools with this plan that we didn't have before and it's definitely a step in the right direction. So I really appreciate all them and their work.

Dave Black: Do we have any other comments? Okay, I'm ready to entertain a motion. Okay, before we do that I guess we could also handle some of these other issues if you'd like to in a separate motion. For instance we could deal with the Monroe unit or the Dutton-Monroe-Boulder unit and Panguitch Lake in a separate motion if you'd like.

Craig Laub: I'll make a motion that we accept the plan and then we can amend it to those separate deal if they want to. So I'll just make a motion that we accept the general elk plan.

Dave Black: Okay, are you going to make that motion then?

Craig Laub: Yep.

Dave Black: Okay, so we have a motion to accept the statewide elk management plan revisions as presented. We have a second from Wade. Do we have any discussion on the motion? Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: I'd like to amend to keep the Monroe age object the same as prior.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second on the amendment. And we have a second from Layne on the amendment. So we'll have a discussion on the amendment now. Do we have any discussion, Brian?

Brian Johnson: I mean let's talk about why it got knocked down a level is because, is the way I understand it it got knocked down a level just because it was extremely accessible . We don't even hunt spikes there anymore because it's so accessible and there's nowhere to hide these bulls to let them get to age. So then we give out less and less tags and their neighboring a unit right next door that are two

objective levels lower and so it just seems like a pretty good compromise to cut tags on the other two and to add a couple of tags on the Monroe. I think that they got it right but that's just me.

Dale Bagley: I agree with ya. I've been saying it for years. If you're going to have bordering units you need to manage them for the same age class. What was happening on the Monroe after that early hunt they start moving to Dutton and you're hammering a lot of late Monroe bulls on a different unit. So I think it's the best scenario to have those age classes the same. .

Dave Black: Wade.

Wade Heaton: I can see the wisdom behind trying to close the objective gap between the three units. I mean it makes sense to me. Having said that whether the Monroe is at 6.5 to 7, or 7.8 to 8, biologically really isn't going to make a big difference and if those that are there working on the unit and those, the public, that are very interested in the unit very much want to keep it at 7.5 to 9. It's probably not a bad idea.

Dave Black: Okay, further discussion?

Brayden Richmond: Can I ask Justin a question on this? The question I have is can Monroe perform at that higher age class? It hasn't for several years. Once upon a time it was. What happened? What changed? And going forward why would we want to lower it in your opinion, being on that part of the elk committee, or heading the elk committee?

Justin Shannon: I don't know if I can answer this as well as Vance can, where Vance knows the history of this unit better than I can, when it comes to managing for a given quality. But to answer the second part of the question as to why we went about this, it was as Brian stated earlier, that essentially you're managing for an 8-year-old bull and a 6-year-old bull right next to each other when you know that there's interchange. And one of the first things that, the very first strategy that was presented was to manage elk at appropriate special scales and take migration into account. And we've kind of gone down that road with cow elk where we've started expanding those units from, you know you can hunt multiple units because we acknowledge that in many cases these are the same animals. And so it's just trying to apply that same type of logic to our limited entry elk hunting. But Vance you have to try to take a shot at the earlier questions.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, so Monroe has been one of those up and down units where we've changed it a lot over the last, you know, decade or so. And so initially it was raised, it was managed very conservatively for older bulls and we ended up having management bull hunts there because we had so many bulls on Monroe yet our age objective wasn't, was only you know hovering around 7 or so. And then we lowered it to a 5-year-old bull. So we raised tags really high and brought the number of bulls way down and now we've come back up to the 7 1/2-year-old that we're managing for. So yes we could manage it and we could meet that objective of 7.5-years-old. Last year we were at 7.1. So we could do that at the cost of keeping tag numbers very low and opportunity low. So we could go either way on that. Definitely we could, we're at the 6 1/2 to 7-year-old objective right now. But you know there's that trade off like you said.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Just to follow a comment to that. It seems like this is more of a social driver. There's some biological reasons behind it but if we poll hunters they all want more opportunity and they all want to kill big, we know that. And that's really hard to accomplish. So the problem here on this one is what's the right thing. And there's some biological reason it appears to have the units averaged out across them. I guess the question I would maybe still have on this, because the only representation we've had here tonight wants to leave that high from the public and if that's really the public's desire . . . I guess I would be curious from the local biologist there what he'd heard from the locals, if he can provide that.

Vance Mumford: Sure, just like you said; most of the local, the people that I've talked to would like it kept high. But I don't know how many of them actually know about it, know about the tradeoffs, you know; and they need to keep that in mind as well. And so just, when we were talking about this amongst biologists talking about the plan here we just thought it was a really good tradeoff with those two units below us. Probably our collar study shows roughly 30% of the elk leave Monroe starting as early as September and head down to the Dutton where we were managing for 4 ½-year-old bulls. And so it really did create somewhat of a conflict and a little bit hard to manage that way. So I think that the plan as presented shows a pretty good balance; make it a little easier to manage and still provide excellent big bull hunting on Monroe.

Brayden Richmond: So in your opinion plan as presented as the local biologist there?

Vance Mumford: Yeah. You know I can do either one but I really do, I think we could manage the Monroe terrific as presented.

Dave Black: Wade.

Wade Heaton: Another question Vance, sorry. Age objectives, this 3-year average of the age objectives really just reflects where our trophy bull tags are going to land. Can you give us a little history as to permit numbers over the last 3 years? Are they going up, down, where are we at?

Vance Mumford: Sure, so the last 5 years or so we've been trying to manage for the high age objective. Our permit numbers are in the 30 range, total. And at our highest permit numbers when we were trying to bring it down, really far down, we were over 100 if you include the management tags in there. Now Monroe is going to be managed different because we don't hunt spikes there so here in a few more years we're going to see that pulse of bulls coming up. And so I picture roughly, if we manage for 6 ½-year-old bulls, 7-year-old bulls, I see us pushing 70ish tags. If we stay at 7 ½-year-olds we're probably going to be in the 50 range. But it's really hard to say. You know you just have to wait and see. It depends on where the bulls move and all that.

Wade Heaton: And what's 2015, what were the permit numbers?

Vance Mumford: It was like 29, ... 27 public. You know we have a landowner's association that gets about 4 tags there per year. And we have seen our age, because we're being so conservative we have seen our average age being raised every year for the last several years. So we're about there.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay. We need to vote and move on. So let's vote on the amendment. So the amendment motion is to, motion to amend the Monroe objective to keep it the same as it has been. All those in favor hold your hands up. Keep them up. Okay, all those opposed? So the amendment fails.

Vote 4:7 – amendment fails

Dave Black: That puts us back to the main motion to accept the plan as presented. Is there any further discussion on the main motion? Okay let's vote on the main motion. All those in favor? Unanimous. Thank you.

**Craig Laub made the motion to accept Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions as presented. Wade Heaton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay that concludes item number 6. Let's move on to item number 7, which is the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates/Application Timeline, and that will be Justin Shannon as well.

**Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates /Application Timeline & R657-5 Rule Amendments (action)**

**-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator 1:51:19 to 2:03:32 of 4:16:07**

(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Justin, I have one question. What's the date on the units where you want to do the late muzzleloader hunt, when does that start? How long after the general season ends do those start?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so the general season hunt is October 22-October 30<sup>th</sup>. And then that limited late muzzleloader hunt would be from November 2<sup>nd</sup>-November 10<sup>th</sup>. And this is as late as it will ever get in the calendar cycle; from then it just moves continually earlier. That November 10<sup>th</sup> deadline is important, that's when we let CWMUs hunt, that's the cutoff date for them for deer as well. And so there's a precedence to go that late but with these hunts it wouldn't go beyond that.

Dave Black: Okay thank you. Do we any other questions from the RAC? Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Justin on the mule deer working group we talked about a possible split hunt for over crowding on the deer units and it would interfere with the any weapon elk hunt in early October, was that discussed in your elk committee?

Justin Shannon: Are you talking about if we have 2 rifle hunts you'd have an early rifle and a late?

Rusty Aiken: Yeah, we looked at that but we were afraid it would, we wanted to see what the elk committee thought about it.

Justin Shannon: I mean it didn't come up as a major issue of what's working well or not working well with our elk management. But through the surveys that we did for the deer committee there was support to have deer hunts and elk hunts overlap and so we were comfortable with that if we ever wanted to go down that road. And to clarify I think we've done that in some areas. We've had, we've moved some deer hunts into elk hunting seasons like on the North Slope and some of that; and the feedback has been

fine.

Dave Black: Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, on the survey large caliber center rifles, people don't want that, but there's no rule change in relation to that, right? You identified that as one of the . . .

Justin Shannon: I'm sorry, maybe I heard you wrong; what did you say again?

Brayden Richmond: On the primitive weapons survey results one of the areas you identified was large caliber center of fire rifles and the public doesn't want that, but there's no rule change regarding that input, right?

Justin Shannon: No, we didn't change the rule for that. We're still thinking through what we want to do with that data.

Brayden Richmond: Good because I love packing my 50 around the mountain.

Justin Shannon: I'm sure you wear it well.

Dave Black: Sean.

Sean Kelly: Hey Justin that Tusher goat herd's been pretty productive in the past. I'm just kind of curious without a nanny hunt how you plan on keeping that below objective.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, let me have, let's see . . .who would be best to tackle the survey results. Riley will do a better job than I will, trust me.

Riley Peck: So let me just repeat the question and make sure I understood it correctly. What are we going to do to keep that below objective? So we just had a transplant and brought off quite a few animals, as you are aware. And the previous population objective was 125. Um, the last plan that we put through we actually raised the objective to 175 and wrote some language into that plan that said if it gets above that we can manage that and see, and potentially use that as a transplant population again in the future. We just flew and did a survey this year and we counted 114 animals. So assuming sightability we are right at the old objective but have some room to grow before we reach the new population objective.

Sean Kelly: So to clarify, my understanding is that you're not discontinuing a nanny hunt indefinitely, it's just for this year.

Riley Peck: Oh no, no we took it off for next year but that potential to put that back on if ever needed still exists.

Sean Kelly: Okay, thanks.

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

Gene Boardman: As I mentioned before, why do we need to give 3 elk permits, don't we have enough

elk hunters to go out there and shoot those elk without having to go to 3 permits per person?

Justin Shannon: Yeah I think it's due to some of the success rates on some of these units. So spike elk hunt is extremely popular, any bull hunting is extremely popular and it provides a great recreation opportunity but success rates are pretty low. And we know that going into it. Some of our cow elk hunts, especially the opportunity driven ones also have low success rates. So realistically a hunter may obtain a spike permit and an antlerless elk control permit, or one of these others, and still come home empty handed. And what we wanted to do is say where we're trying to provide more tools, we don't want the reason that we're not harvesting elk in some of these key areas is because people have already gone 0 for 2 on their elk hunting. If a private landowner said I'm having issues get a private lands only permit, or whatever that is going to look like, it still provides a channel to do that and harvest elk in the right areas. That's the reason; I guess that's the why behind it.

Gene Boardman: Okay.

Dave Black: Any other questions?

### **Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll open up questions to the public. Remember to keep this to questions only and then we'll start on the comment cards. Do we have any questions? Do you have a question Jason? Okay, hurry.

Jason Aiken: All right, well since I am the only one, I've got a bunch of questions. So on the, I just noticed this in the late season muzzleloader hunt on the Fillmore; I'm guessing this is just a typo. It says it goes to November 11<sup>th</sup> and doesn't stop November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Justin Shannon: Yeah thank you for pointing that out. That's not, there's nothing special about going a day later. I apologize.

Jason Aiken: Okay. I just wanted to clarify there. And then on the muzzleloader deal with the uh, uh, magnifying scopes, what kind of brought this to life, I mean I kind of, I've heard people talk about it but I didn't know that it was something that was as pressing as this. How did that come up so quickly and get through and on the division's recommendations so quick?

Justin Shannon: The reason we viewed it as an opportunity to do this now was because we were opening the big game rule and so when you do that, that doesn't happen very often. Lately it has because of the deer plan and the elk plan. But there are stretches where we go quite a while without opening it. And so as we took this survey and got the feedback, I think 57% of the big game hunters said that they wanted it and 39% were opposed, something like that. We looked at that and said, yeah that's a pretty healthy proportion of our hunters that want to see that. And when we looked at just the muzzleloader hunters it was 60% wanted to see it happen. And so we bounced it around internally and said are there any biological reasons, or any reasons not to provide that and we didn't think so. We felt like it was an extremely social issue and so we proposed it with this round of RACs.

Jason Aiken: Okay, with that, if this goes through and we do increase it to where, or make it to where we

can use high power scopes on muzzleloaders what do you expect, what is your take on the harvest percentages and buck to doe ratios; what kind of effect is that going to have on those?.

Justin Shannon: That's a tough one, I'm not really sure. And I know as the big game coordinator you should be confident in these answers and say oh I know exactly what's going to happen, but I really don't know. Because there's a couple of arguments here, one is that you could harvest more deer potentially, the other argument is you may not harvest more deer but you might actually retrieve the deer that you shot at because you're more successful in making a lethal shot. And as we looked at it we aim to let's make sure that there's opportunities to make more lethal shots. And so that's a really tough question to answer. But I will say this, on all of our units there's not more than 20% of the permits that occur in the muzzleloader season. So I got asked this at the Central Region RAC, what if the wheels just came off and we saw a 10% increase in success rate on the muzzleloader? I know it looks really big but where there's only 20% of the permits or fewer in the muzzleloader hunt it's less than a 2% increase in harvest statewide. And so we view it as minimal but it's tough to speculate. I'm eager to see what the data comes back like if this passes.

Jason Aiken: All right, okay so sorry this will be the last one. So with that being said, if you know because of the fact that we're not quite sure what's going to happen, um, wouldn't this kind of fall in the same category as the mid season elk hunt, you know, maybe try it on a couple of different units. Is that something that we could possibly do, try it on a couple of units for a couple of years to see what that does to the harvest percentage and buck to doe ratios so that people that are backing this up saying okay this is a good idea or people that aren't backing it up saying this is a bad idea, know what they're getting themselves into when we throw it on the board instead of doing it all the way across the board because I think it would be harder to take away if we wanted to do away with it than . . .

Justin Shannon: Yeah, struggle to answer that one too. And the reason I do is because I feel like this is a very social issue. And so whether we have allow muzzleloader hunters to go this route or keep status quo like we are now, I think it's just a preference on what the public hunting wants and how the RACs feel about this issue. And so you know, starting on a few units and trying that is, you know we're not limiting this to deer, we're opening it up to all big game. And so our intent was throw it out there and see, let's have some dialog with it. So um, yeah it's probably not the answer you want but it really is a social issue so however we want to grapple with it.

Jason Aiken: Right but isn't the mid season elk hunt the same thing; it's a social issue? If we, we're taking slow steps with that, we could possible do the same thing and take slow steps with the muzzleloaders and the magnifying scopes?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, sure. I mean that's a fair way to look at it. The one difference with the muzzleloader, with the early October hunt is there might be conflicts, which are unforeseen in regards to having some of these hunts overlap. What does that mean for law enforcement or guys getting called out left and right because these hunts are occurring? It's just a different set of potential pressures. Kevin, do you have anything to add?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, I guess I would, my response to that Jason would be because it's only 20% and a big increase in success rate on 20% doesn't mean a big change overall. So it is a conservative approach just by the fact that there's a limited number of people hunting that are allowed to hunt with muzzleloaders.



Justin Shannon: Can I just say thanks for pointing out that error date. I would have got my head chewed later so I own you lunch or something, thank you.

Lee Tracy: I've got a question. Lee Tracy. Can you tell me, can anyone tell me why a person is not allowed to use any light-enhancing device or aiming device that casts a light? What was the reasoning behind that?

Justin Shannon: I don't know reasoning I'd probably have law enforcement take a stab. I don't have a good answer for you. I can find out and get back with you but I don't have one tonight. Kevin do you know by chance?

Discussions off mic

Kevin Bunnell: Lee I think that section of the rule that you referenced is the spotlighting section of it that makes it so that you can't use artificial light. Maybe I'm wrong, but otherwise it's probably a fair chase issue. If you're, you know, using a laser sight to, you know, it's the same; it's a fair chase issue same as a computerized sighting device. Similar issue.

Lee Tracy: All right and it is in fact in the prohibited weapons section. A person may not use any light enhancing device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, so that's for like guns that have, that you'll see like assault rifles that have a high power flashlight or a laser that's mounted on them, that's what that's prohibiting.

Riley Roberts: Riley Roberts. Justin it looks good, just a couple of questions. Why not increase the number of units where the late muzzle tag would exist? You're talking only a handful of tags. I know some of those are the over the objective but 5 bucks isn't really going to make that big of a difference when you're talking about 12,000 head. So why not increase the number of units where you're doing that at? That's the first question.

Justin Shannon: Just to clarify, you are talking limited entry late season muzzleloader hunts that take place on general season deer units? So according to the statewide plan that was passed, we want to try those on units that are managed for 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does. And if they're exceeding that 20 bucks per 100 does we try it then. So if this gets approved it would be 12 general season units that we're trying this on and so it is about 2/3 of our units that are managed that way. And as far as permits, was that part of the question too, why don't we add more permits to that? Or did I understand that incorrectly?

Riley Roberts: Yeah, I mean I'm looking at the numbers and I'm looking at the number of individuals with that are sitting on a lot of points and it would seem to me like you're only talking a handful of tags on each unit and you could, you know, let's say add some of these other units and you get more people through the system creating more opportunity as well. I mean I understand if it's a trial run and it's something that you're looking at but if you're basing it solely on the buck to doe ratio it doesn't look like it's going to affect that anyway. Does that make sense?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, you've got a great point because on these units if you have 5 permits, 5 bucks on a unit with 3000 deer, 4000 deer, whatever, isn't going to change your buck to doe ratio at all, or very,

very minor. So again, it was part of our commitment last year as we took this through the public process to say we'd try it, we'd start slow and get the feedback. And so that's what we did last year, and again, these permits will be up for review in the spring. And so we could take a look at some of those, but until we get the feedback, which we haven't got yet with the harvest surveys, we're pretty comfortable starting slow.

Riley Roberts: So is it something that we are not willing to look at at all if they haven't hit the right 18 to 20 buck to doe ratio or is that something that we would be willing to look at in the future no matter what because it's just a handful of tags that you're looking at on various units throughout the state?

Justin Shannon: No, I think we'd look at it down the road if it was something that was really benefiting limited entry hunters, if it was getting hunters through the system, if we weren't having negative impacts to these general season units, those types of things. But with the plan, I mean the RACs will remember there was a lot of discussion on this last fall, a lot of it. And so you know it's a 5 year plan, we got 4 years left and so maybe with the next plan if there's a lot of positive feedback and we could provide more of these opportunities then certainly we'd look at it. Yeah. And with that said, the reason this was introduced in the first place is because point creep is a real issue with our deer and so it was thinking outside of the box without converting general season units straight to limited entry and visa versa.

Riley Roberts: Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll go to the comments section.

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

Dave Black: First we have Garth Jenson, he submitted two cards, go ahead and address both of those at the same time. And you'll be followed by Mike Twitchell.

Garth Jenson: Garth Jenson. Really as far as the one it was the scope on a muzzleloader. Just I really don't support it. I think, you know ultimately you'll probably have just as many wounded, just with anything else. Guys are taking 200 or 300-yard shots with their regular muzzleloader right now. I feel like if you had a scope on it now they're going to take 400 and 500-yard shots. They'll probably kill those ones within 200 or 300 yards but now they're just going to try for a little further. So I think if you did that you'd probably have to adjust the amount of permits that you issue during the muzzleloader hunt and ultimately take away from hunter opportunity. My other, I don't know if it's a comment or a question. Like I just noticed on like the Beaver mountain goat and the Willard Peak mountain goat, for nonresidents there's typically one tag for both the early and the late hunt. I'd really like to see those be two tags, either during the early hunt or the late hunt, or make it like the Zion sheep hunt and allow the nonresidents to hunt both the early and the late, that way instead of having one random permit in both you could combine those and at least have a max point tag holder draw out in that and also a random tag. Just kind of give those guys that have waited the longest a chance for a max point tag and have a, instead of just going for two randoms. That's my thoughts.

Justin Shannon: I know this might be out of order but can I get a clarification on that comment? Is the idea that if you have an early hunt on the Beaver and a late hunt on the Beaver and they both have nonresident permits then those nonresidents they don't, they can't leverage the maximum point opportunity. So if we put those permits, if we had a nonresident hunt in the early and not the late then

you can better leverage the max points?

Garth Jenson: If you had two permits on one hunt then you could have one go to the top point pool and one go to random instead of the way it is now; both of them are random so all those guys that have been banking those points for years they can't really use those in the max point pool.

Dave Black: Okay, so Mike followed by Bryce.

Mike Twitchell: Mike Twitchell with the Utah Bowman's Association. The Bowman's Association supports the recommendations of the division with the following exception: we would encourage the RAC to recommend implementing the new October limited entry hunts, that would be the one in the middle of the other two seasons for the limited entry, also on the Wasatch and the Manti elk units.

Dave Black: Thank you. Bryce followed by Riley Roberts.

Bryce Pilling: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Bryce Pilling, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, we accept Bucks and Bulls as presented with the exception of the, on the primitive weapons we accept the plan the division has set forward with the magnification on the scopes we remain neutral. Thank you.

Dave Black: So Riley will be followed by Mike Ahlstrom.

Riley Roberts: Riley Roberts, thank you chairman. I appreciate all the time and effort that's been put in to this and accept that and also support the magnification on the muzzleloaders during the general hunts as well. Thank you Justin.

Dave Black: Mike to be followed by Jason Aiken.

Mike Ahlstrom: Mike Ahlstrom just representing myself again. I am in favor, I'm not a muzzleloader hunter, but I'm in favor of the muzzleloader scopes. I think you're talking about very limited number of people. I think the biggest complaint is we've got a lot of rifle hunters that are worried that those deer will get shot before they get a chance. And so you know, they can shoot their guns out to 1,000, 1,200, 1,500 yards and so if a muzzleloader can shoot accurately out to 300 yards why not be able to use that instead of blowing legs off with a 1 power scope actually being able to make a good accurate shot and killing that animal. Also, on the late season limited entry late muzzleloader hunt on the general season, I like the way it's going. I appreciate it. I think it's a great opportunity. The point creep through the entire system is terrible. We've got to figure out a way to get people through and if we can get that eventually to all units, even if it is, you know if they're below objective as far as their buck to doe ration you're talking 5 to 6 bucks and it's not going to change the herd other than it's going to take 1/3 less time to get through the point system. When you crunch the numbers, if you put 5 tags on 30 units it's 150 tags you add another 1/3 more tags to limited entry, it's something that we need to keep working to. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Jason, you also submitted two cards, one for yourself and one for SFW. Go ahead and cover both of those at the same time.

Jason Aiken: Okay, I'm Jason Aiken. Bryce actually covered the one for SFW so I think we're good there. I am just going to represent myself on this. So when the survey came out earlier this summer I kind of could see something was coming up. I started asking people the same question that was on the

survey. I got the survey myself so I knew what it said. Um, and the answers that I got for muzzleloaders with the high power scopes were, yeah that's great, that's a great idea. And then I asked them; okay are you willing to give up opportunity to hunt for that and then their answer changed that quick. It was like, well not I don't want to give up opportunity. Now I know that it's not going to be much opportunity, you know like you said, it's only 20% of the tags. But I mean that's, isn't that enough? Isn't some opportunity, that's more than you know keeping it status quo? So another thing that I think a lot of people that are saying okay we want to do these high power scopes on muzzleloaders, but you can do high power scopes on muzzleloaders, it's the any weapon hunt. You can use that, any muzzleloader with a high power scope on it you want during that any weapon hunt and that's why we have it that way, they actually changed the rule on that a couple of years ago so that you could do that. So the guys that have gone and spent the money to put their muzzleloaders through the ringer so that they can shoot those long distances I think that's a great idea let them hunt during the any weapon hunt. I think the muzzleloader hunt needs to continue to be a more primitive weapon hunt. It is one of the hunts that allows for more opportunity because it's a less desirable hunt because it's a harder hunt because you're limited to a muzzleloader with single shot, it's hard to shoot out past 100-150 yards if you don't do a lot of practicing. So I think we need to leave it the same, the way that it is. With that I love the idea that the late season muzzleloader hunt on the general season units. Keep up the good work on that. Just one thing that we need to keep in mind, we want to try and keep those tags at a low. I think we definitely did a good job this year. We did see some good bucks taken off a lot of those units. So it was real great to see that. But I don't, I don't think we over did it with tags this last year and I hope we don't overdo it with tags again this year. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you. Next will be Tyson Cannon followed by Lee Tracy.

Tyson Cannon: I'm Tyson Cannon. I just want to support the scopes on a muzzleloader. Everyone is focusing on not having scopes on a muzzleloader but no one has said anything about an electronic ranger finders on a bow. I don't really see much difference, if we can't go with a scope why are we going with a range finder on a bow? That's it, thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you. And then Lee will be followed by Paul Neimeyer.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. UWC also supports the recommendations from the Division of Wildlife Resources. But we do have one suggestion and it's not necessarily an exception, as a little bit of background, I think some of you know that I have a son who is losing his eyesight and he hasn't been able to hunt for some time. This past nine months he's been at a school learning how to deal with the issues on a life regular life living basis and stuff like that, which we're thankful because he's learned how to cook actually. But one of the, I had an opportunity to meet one of his roommates and this young man is totally blind and he was able to harvest a deer this year with a sighted companion. But the only thing he could do as far as hunt or shoot was to carry the rifle to the point where they saw the deer and then he had to turn the rifle over to his sighted companion. The reason I ask about those laser beam sights is that he was telling me that, and when I told him about this smart gun and the laser sights and stuff like that he was telling me that he would love to be able to shoot that deer on his own with the help of his sighted companion and the only way that could happen is if he had some kind of a laser beam that was pointed on the deer and through a verbal or a touch from his sighted companion he would know when to shoot. I would like to see the division do some kind of a study and put on the action log that study to find out what the ramifications of that type of a hunt would be, legally, and ethically, and safety wise. That's, you know, a study at this point would satisfy us, thanks.

Dave Black: And then Paul will be followed by Mike Twitchell and that's the last of the cards.

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Neimeyer and I'm representing myself. I've had a lot of people talk to me about this issue. And it is, I've only had one guy that really was much of a muzzleloader hunter that was against it. A one-power scope makes things look a lot farther away than they really are. And the crosshairs don't look like it when you look at them but if you put it on a target, let's say at 100 yards, they'll cover a swatch about that wide that way and about that wide this way and it's really hard to sight them in. I get trapped on that every year because I sight in a lot of guns and these guys will bring me these muzzleloaders to me and want me to deal with it and so then I get the abuse of getting kicked around a whole bunch and trying to get their guns halfway sighted in. I think, you know, especially if older people, when I was younger I shot, I got hooked up with Knight muzzleloader when the very first got going, in fact I did a lot of testing on those sabot bullets for them. And we even went to the point where, see in those days there was no real muzzleloader bullets. They were shooting pistol bullets in those sabots. And generally a muzzleloader starts out a little faster than a pistol and when these muzzleloader, or these pistol bullets work pretty good in a certain velocity range. But with a muzzleloader where they start out a little faster if you shoot something very close most of those bullets would shatter. If you shot at something very far away they probably wouldn't open up at all. Now since then you know all these companies are making honest to goodness muzzleloader bullets that are really pretty effective. Here's one if you guys want to look at it, I pulled out of a, I think I've still got it maybe. . . . That's 195 grain Barnes bullet that I pulled out of a buck I shot a year ago. So things have changed quite a bit on that end of it. Some of these rules that we got into often were just out of emotion. You look at the different rules, the different states, kind of depending who was there, who's opinions, a lot of it wasn't based on real science, it was just everybody was pretty emotional on some of this stuff. The scopes, especially if you get older, they're really hard to deal with. And allowing, what the kill rate really is on archery or muzzleloading or rifle is hard to determine because somewhere in there there's a wounding factor. And my gut on this, now I've hunted with scopes in Arizona and New Mexico, both on deer and elk, and our people didn't want to shoot any farther they just wanted to shoot better. And I suspect, especially on elk, wounding would be reduced greatly. And if the people were able to put a shot into them good, because elk react totally different to a muzzleloader than a rifle on elk. There's, they're a big animal, there's not a lot of shock with a muzzleloader. Now these, some of these bullets now are starting to open up and create a wound channel which you never got out of the old round balls or the old mini or maxi balls. So you are, if you get the bullet into them you're probably going to have a really good chance to recover. But we want to, like I say, we want to shoot better. We don't shoot farther. The guys, right now that are shooting too far with whatever they're using on their muzzleloaders, and to be honest with you we all know some that are using regular scopes now, those guys are going to shoot too far if you allow scopes, just like they do right now. And I don't think you can legislate morals, ethics and common sense; you just can't. But that's what we're really looking for is . . . you know the spike muzzleloader hunt is the last hunt where you can get the family all to go. Everybody can go buy a tag and they can all go. And you got people from young to old and I would really recommend that you allow them to have a scope. Let them shoot better. It's just like if you get into the fight with a regular rifle guy, some of these guys, there's guys right now that I promise you can hit an elk at a mile. Anyway, I'd appreciate it if you would look at that. And then the other thing is the wording is confusing on these sabot bullets. It depends on, I don't know why we have to use a heavier sabot then we do a round ball, that doesn't even make sense. But anyway I would just simplify the regulations, say a sabot bullets needs to be at least 185 grains on any big game in Utah and that should be, I mean these guys will shoot them depending on the caliber of the muzzleloader from there to wherever. But anyway, I appreciate

your time and hope you'll look at that scope law. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Mike. We had you once; we do have a question for you before you sit down too.

Mike Twitchell: Please go ahead, I'll answer that question as best as I can.

Kevin Bunnell: Just make sure I got it right. You were wanting to implement the mid season elk hunts, was it the Manti and the Wasatch units? I was trying to type fast enough and make sure I got that right.

Mike Twitchell: Yeah, sorry, that's correct. The Manti and the Wasatch.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay I got it, thanks. That's what we needed.

Mike Twitchell: I do have a personal comment. Some of the comments have been shared a little bit in relation. I realize that the muzzleloader with the magnification is a hot topic. Just out of a sense of prudence, some of my thoughts have already been shared by Jason Aiken. I'll second those comments that he had concerning the magnification. I think that those who shoot too far now will shoot too far then. Also, I'm a little bit concerned with opportunity being down. You know we talk and talk about opportunity and then something comes along and we legislate against opportunity; and this may be one of those times. Studies will prove that. The other thing that I'm grateful for and I do appreciate is the opportunity for hunter's choice on that late muzzleloader elk hunt. The archers have been doing it for a long time. If the muzzleloader is truly a more primitive style hunt and if the numbers are that low I'm glad to see the consideration from the Division to allow for late season muzzleloader elk hunters to harvest a cow. And it's great because it's their choice. Some people wouldn't choose to do that, I appreciate that and I respect that. There would be some, myself included, to have elk in my freezer and if that's one opportunity to get another elk then I think that's great. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. That wraps up our comment cards before I turn it over to the board for comments I'd like to make a comment. I'm sure you've all received a number of emails and the majority has been regarding the use of scopes on muzzleloaders. The ones that I received I added them up, there were ten that I received, six were in favor and four were opposed; so that kind of goes along with the survey about 60% in favor. The people that I've talked to, and I've talked to a number of people, sportsman groups, and hunters, and by far the majority of those were in favor of adding scopes. And if you're not one of those people classified as getting older you will be someday. And you can see on the top of my head I have a pair of glasses and I have to keep moving them up and down depending on the distance that I'm looking. And hunting muzzleloader right now is frustrating and I personally would be greatly in favor of being able to use a scope on the muzzleloader hunt. Also, I want to summarize the comments on this particular item. Garth Jenson does not support scopes on muzzleloader, and he wants to increase the nonresident opportunities for goats, and that would be two tags in at least one of the hunts. And I would maybe suggest we look at that as a possible amendment to at least address that but that will be up to you guys. The Utah Bowman's Association they would like to implement mid season elk hunts on the Manti and Wasatch units. The SFW supports the recommendations as presented and they are neutral on the scope muzzleloader issue. Riley Roberts supports scopes on muzzleloaders. Mike Ahlstrom supports scopes on muzzleloaders; supports the late season limited entry muzzleloader hunts on general season units. Jason Aiken does not support scopes on muzzleloaders, he's afraid it will reduce opportunity. Tyson Cannon supports scopes. Utah Wildlife Cooperative supports as presented and they

would like to see some consideration at least a study for handicapped people using laser sights. Paul Neimeyer supports the scopes. Mike Twitchell does not support scopes. Also Paul felt that we could simplify the regulations on sabotated bullets by specifying the minimum grain of bullet. So that summarizes that. .

### **RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have comments from the RAC? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: There has been some comments made tonight by the public and by some of my fellow board members and for those of you that, I mean I don't feel like I'm getting older but I can't shoot open sights any more, just to tell you the truth. And as I've gone around and talked with sportsman the last three or four weeks since this all came about the overwhelming majority of them do support magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders for that reason. I think that there were several comments made that, I don't think they necessarily want to shoot farther they just want to shoot better, like Paul said. And here's my other side to that scenario, just because this rule if it does get implemented to support magnified scopes on muzzleloaders doesn't mean that those traditionalists have to put one on their gun. If they want to shoot open sights, or they want to shoot a peep sight, or they don't want to shoot any sights, if they want to throw rocks at them they can, I don't care. Okay, well I'm sorry. They can shoot them with a slingshot. But I think this is an opportunity especially some of the guys from my generation and from the generation that's just ahead of my, an opportunity to keep hunting with a muzzleloader and be able to see. And I think that Jason made the comment about taking away opportunity, I think this is going to create opportunity for some of those guys. That's all I have.

Dave Black: Gene.

Gene Boardman: For the sake of this discussion, lets talk about scopes and equipment first and then talk about the rest of the presentation afterwards.

Dave Black: Yeah, we can do that.

Gene Boardman: Okay, on the scopes and muzzleloaders when they started having archery hunts and muzzleloader hunts everybody shot side locks and long bows or a recurve. And since then the equipment has been upgraded considerably. But what these two hunts do accomplish is it spreads out hunting over a longer period of time and 20 % of the tags going to muzzleloaders takes out 20 % of the people that would hunt the regular rifle hunt. So with the improvements on the range and the quality of the weapons they're not primitive weapons, they're not primitive hunts. I think archers that are well trained and use their equipment can probably shoot a tighter group at 80 yards with their arrows than I can off hand with my 30:30. But the point I'm coming to is since the technology has gone so far I think I'm in favor of allowing the scopes on the muzzleloaders. Keep the people happy that are hunting with muzzleloaders, they can use whatever way they want. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, Brian.

Brian Johnson: Just like everybody else here, about the only thing that anybody wants to talk about this week is, we just presented a 7-year elk plan and no one says a word about it, but by heck let's talk about putting a 3 to 9 on a muzzleloader and my phone blows up today. Which is great, I mean the feedback I

got, just like everybody else was you know it would be great if I could, I don't want anybody else to do it but it's great if I could do it. That would be fantastic. I mean let's talk about a Remington 700 muzzleloader with a 4 to 16 vortex viper scope on there and I've got a 400 yard gun. I mean do we just need to ask ourselves; do we want to have a 400-yard gun in September? I don't care. If we can do it I'll go buy one tomorrow, guaranteed it's on order. So it's just do we want to do it? I mean we sold this late season muzzleloader hunt to the public as a primitive weapon. And to me 300 yards is no longer primitive, we have well passed that. We are not primitive anymore. So Rusty asked about let's have an early rifle hunt and a late rifle hunt, well you've got it. We've got an early rifle hunt, it's just a single shot. You know and so that's fine. I mean it's just a matter of what you guys want to do and we'll sit here and we've already had two RACs have voted to keep it status quo and there's 3 RACs to go and the Board will get to decide what we do. I just don't know. I just don't know if we want to be that state that shoots 300, 400 yards in September. I mean let's look at what the deer safety zone is. I mean with a muzzleloader you start hunting at 300 yards, you get to that 150 magical yards and you start pulling the trigger. But you know, it's up to us what we decide to do. So that's just kind of some thoughts I've had there.

Dave Black: With the intent of trying to move this forward, unless you have a dying comment I'd like to entertain a motion fairly soon. Mike. On the muzzleloader issue, let's deal with that by itself.

Mike Worthen: Let me be real quick here and for probably one of the first times I agree with Brian. But anyway, you know I grew up, my first muzzleloader I had I bought a Hawkins, a Thompson Hawkins kit, put it together, had the best time of my life for the next ten years. And then the inlines came out and boy I had to have one of those. And a lot better, they shot a little truer. But the intent back then was a primitive weapon and if we're going to change this to start allowing the technology that has been developed to creep into this then let's change the goals and objectives of the hunt. It's no longer primitive. The bow hunt's no longer primitive. We're shooting bows out to 180 yards, or 120 yards. Well I've seen some of them shoot 120 very easy. Putting lasers, range finders on those to improve it, that's fine but let's change the objectives of what the hunt is; it's no longer primitive my any means. Primitive is the open sights, the bow, the recurve bows or the long bows that the Native American's used was where the intent was. And that's no longer even talked about so I would strongly suggest the division go back and reword that muzzleloader hunt to remove primitive weapons and just make it another hunt.

Kevin Bunnell: I don't think we call it a primitive hunt.

Mike Worthen: It's muzzleloader. And then that's fine. I guess I'm just back in the old days I looked at that as a very good challenge and now the challenge is going further and further away.

Dave Black: Okay, Wade.

Wade Heaton: I do need to make a comment but first I will make a motion and then we'll have a little discussion on it, Mr. Chairman I move that we, well we have to have a motion on the entire package? All right, I make a motion that we approve the division's proposal with regard to magnification on muzzleloaders.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion to accept the division's recommendation. We also have a second from Layne. Any discussion on the motion?



Wade Heaton: You know I might be trying to make it too simple but I just feel like we're over thinking this, like we're spending a little too much time on something that really isn't going to make that much of an impact. To me it boils down to simple fairness. I agree with Mike, none of these hunts are primitive any more. That ship has sailed long ago. I mean I don't think the archery hunt is primitive. I think we have hunts, we have weapons, we have opportunities to kill things. And I don't think we ought to legislate poor shot selection, or any of these restrictive things that we'd place on it. To me it was a misstep to put a one power on the muzzleloader from the very beginning. If we're going to do that let's be fair and across the board. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the bows that have come out in the last ten years but they are off the charts compared to where we started. High power rifles are the same thing. We are not limiting them and if we are going to continue to limit muzzleloaders let's start limiting them. Let's worry about our opportunity through season dates, through permit numbers, through some of these other things; let's not legislate it through equipment.

Dave Black: Any further discussion on the motion? All those in favor? This is scopes only. One more time, everybody, the motion is to allow magnification on muzzleloaders. All those in favor hold your hand high and hold them up please. Those opposed? Okay so the motion passes 7 to 4. Brian, Mike and Craig opposed.

Dave Black: Okay, Now we're back to the main agenda item and that's the Bucks, Bulls, OIAL, Season Dates, Application Timeline as presented. Do we have a motion?

Brayden Richmond: Are we still going to discuss anything else we want to make a motion first and then have more discussion, we only discussed muzzleloaders.

Dave Black: You better, if you have something else we better bring it up.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah I have a couple of things I'd like to talk about actually. And one is going to be kicking a horse. The first one is the sabot weight, I'm not familiar enough with the rules to know what they are but if we have different weights with round balls and sabots and different sabots for different animals, I've got to line up and agree with Paul, let's just make that simple. Simplify it and come up with one wording for the sabots. Second one is I do support the, I don't recall his name that brought up the mountain goats, I think we should look at that and make an amendment there; so that the nonresidents can have the opportunity to max points. Now to kick my horse, this is the one to discuss season dates and it was brought up before and I'm going to just bring it up again, I sure would love to be able to hunt mountain goats, well let me rephrase this, I've killed mountain goats so I don't even have a pony in this race, but I'd love to change the mountain goat season so we could hunt them when they have nice pretty coats on them. Okay, that's all.

Brian Johnson: Can I talk?

Dave Black: Are you going to make a motion?

Brian Johnson: I want to talk a little bit about big fluffy goats too. We have two seasons, I don't even understand why. They say it's because of season crowding. So we have two seasons and then what we get is we get two days that are crowded instead of just one opener that's crowded and then we just let it go until December. And then if the people don't kill their goat who's fault is that other than the people?

I don't understand why we have two seasons on these mountain goat hunts. We should just put them all in one season. If the people who want to run up there and hunt opening day because it's opening day in Utah, and that's what we do, then let them go and get it over with because it's not like it's terribly tough. But let's let both of these seasons go later into the year so we have some descent fur. I mean nobody knows the difference between a nine-inch goat and a ten-inch goat; it's ridiculous. The fur is the real trophy here. I really think it should be just one hunt and it should just go until, what do you think Brayden, December? I mean, January? I mean it doesn't matter. They kill them in British Columbia in February for crying out loud. That's what we're managing for is 100 percent kill and this over crowding issue is not an issue. He's got something to say. Let's hear what . . .

Justin Shannon: I apologize for interrupting; I know this is your discussion. So this is something that came up through this RAC a year ago, year and a half ago, I think it was last year. And last year at the Wildlife Board meeting we did, we extended our mountain goat hunts till the end of November in many instances. Yeah, that's a separate issue but as far as moving the season dates back that's one of the things we worked on with the Bowman's Association that actually brought it up initially. And we looked at it and we extended these. Some dates are November 15, some are November 30<sup>th</sup>, and a lot of that dealt with closures of local Forest Service roads so we didn't want to extend beyond that into December and pretend that they had access when the reality is they didn't. So the issue that you're talking about, the Division did make an effort to go through each unit and extend it where we can with these. So just a point of clarification.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Dave Black: What I'd propose maybe is a motion for the first two items that Brayden had and then if you want to do a separate motion on the goats we can deal with that. But let's deal with your first two items Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, I'll go ahead and try a motion here. I'd make a motion to accept the plan from the Division as proposed with an amendment that we simplify the rules on sabots and an amendment on the nonresident goats combining that into one season. And I'm trying to decide if I want to beat that horse or not but I'll probably just go for these two and make it easy.

Brian Johnson: It's just part of the motion, it's not an amendment.

Dave Black: That's, that's fine. So we have a motion to accept the plan as presented except that we simplify the regulations on sabots and that we combine the goat hunts to a single season. And we had a second from Rusty. Do we have any discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: Yeah, at this point if we pass it I just think that we, I'd like to make an amendment to the motion that we add the Manti and the Wasatch limited entry elk to have a mid season in that October hunt that we talked about with . . . Yeah, I'd like the amendment . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Let's get a second on this motion first.

Brian Johnson: We did. Yeah we got a second. And so I didn't want to vote until I had a chance to make another amendment so I apologize.

Dave Black: Okay, so we have an amendment that we add the mid season elk hunt on the Manti and the Wasatch.

Brian Johnson: On the limited entry mid season elk hunt, yes.

Dave Black: Okay, and do we have a second? And we have a second. Do we have any discussion on the amendment? Okay, Gene.

Gene Boardman: I don't understand why we want this mid season hunt. To put it on the same time as the spike hunt as I understand it, for limited entry bull. Where are the permits going to come from?

Brian Johnson: The 60% of the limited entry is where they'd come from. The limited entry rifle, it just spreads those guys out a little bit so they're not all getting shot in September. So the success rate goes down.

Gene Boardman: What it does it take away the opportunity to hunt in September. Permits go to October. When you have to elbow your way through the spike hunters and control cow hunters and everybody else that isn't the time I'd like to hunt. I'd like to hunt that September hunt and this is taking opportunity away from drawing that September hunt.

Brian Johnson: It is taking some opportunity away from that Gene but if the success, if the percentages go down then there would be more tags available and so it's just another tool to allow more tags to get issued is all that mid season hunt is. Easier to draw.

Gene Boardman: I don't think it will help us on trying to draw the September hunt.

Dave Black: Lets move to a vote on the amendment. That is to. . . Sean do you have a comments?

Sean Kelly: Just a quick question. How did the Central Region RAC vote on this?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so the Central Region RAC also voted to include the Wasatch and the Manti as well.

Dave Black: Okay, all right, all those in favor?

Kevin Bunnell: So we're voting on the amendment.

Dave Black: The amendment.

Kevin Bunnell: We're voting on the motion to amend which is to include mid season elk hunts on the Wasatch and Manti units. The original motion, well we'll clarify the original motion after we do this.

Dave Black: All those in favor? Did you get a count? All those opposed? Okay, So the amendment passes 8:3 (Mack, Wade and Gene opposed).

Dave Black: Now we are back to the motion which is to accept the proposed Buck, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline, and Rule Amendments as presented with the exception that

we simplify the regulations on sabots and combine the goat hunts into a single season. Any comments? All those in favor? All those opposed. So that passes 10:1 (Gene opposed)

Dave Black: Okay that concludes item number 7.

Justin Shannon: Can I have one point of clarification on the mountain goat hunts? Are you specifically talking about the, I know you just voted on it, but are you talking the Beaver units and the Ogden Willard Peak units?

Brian Johnson: Yep.

Justin Shannon: Okay, because the other ones are separate. So essentially, is the idea that we would start September 10<sup>th</sup> and just go all the way through November 15<sup>th</sup> and not have that break? That would be the season dates associated with those?

Brian Johnson: Yes.

Dave Black: Brayden you had a questions? Can you answer that for him?

Brayden Richmond: (off mic)

Justin Shannon: Yeah, starting at the beginning of the first hunt and ending on the ending of the second hunt, that's the concept?

Brian Johnson: Perfect.

**Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline & R657-5 Rule Amendments as presented with the exception to simplify the regulations on sabots and combine the goat hunts into a single season hunt that starts in September and ends in November. Dale Bagley seconded. Brian Johnson made an amendment to the motion to also include in the mid-season elk hunts the Wasatch and Manti units. Rusty Aiken seconded. Amended motion passes 9:3 (Mack Morrell, Wade Heaton and Gene Boardman opposed). Original motion passes 11:1 (Gene Boardman opposed).**

Dave Black: Okay, item number 8 is the Southeast Region Deer Management Plan and that's presented by Guy Wallace.

**SER Deer Management Plans (action) 3:06:43 to 3:25:00 of 4:16:07**  
**-Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

**Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Any questions from the public?

None

**Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: We do have some comment cards. We have Lee Tracy first followed by Bryce, followed by Jason Aiken.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. The UWC supports the recommendations as presented. And we are especially pleased that the numbers and the information that we received is primarily based on, and maybe even totally based on the biology. And any lose of opportunity we accept simply because it's based on biology and not social reasons. Thanks.

Bryce Pilling: Bryce Pilling, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. We accept the Division's plan on deer management and we'd also like to thank the Division and all the employees for their hard work they've done on all this tonight. Thank you.

Jason Aiken: I didn't know that Bryce was submitting all these comment cards so that's why I submitted mine. Mine is going to be the same thing SFW supports the Division's recommendations on the Southern RAC, or the Southeastern Region Mule Deer plan. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you. That's all the comment cards.

**RAC discussion and vote:**

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

Mack Morrell: I got a question, how did the Southeast Region vote on this?

Guy Wallace: That's tomorrow night. We haven't had that RAC meeting yet.

Mack Morrell: Okay. I would like to make a motion that we approve this as long as the Southeast Region approves it because, you know, I don't know anything about the Southeast Region and nobody else, so I don't even know why we're talking about it. And always make a motion that if it be region specific that it's brought to that region only.

Guy Wallace: You know we have a lot of hunters that hunt those units from other regions, all over the state so the idea . . .

Mack: Well the hunters know that but we don't.

Guy Wallace: We just want the opportunity to present it around the state so that anybody that wants to comment on it can.

Wade Heaton: I second it.

Brayden Richmond: I'll second the motion and I do hunt down that all the time so I feel comfortable

with my second.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any discussion on the motion? Let's clarify the motion first. I think the motion is that we approve the management plan as presented. Maybe we want to put a qualifier on it; can we do that? I think we are handicapped as a RAC from lack of experience but we do have Brayden down there that has a lot of experience.

Brian Johnson: They vote on our Southern stuff all the time. Let's just hammer, let's just push it down their throat like they do to us, it will be fine.

Dave Black: Okay, the motion as stated, that's what we'll go with. The motion is approve the plan as presented as long as the Southeast Region approves and that in the future regions specific proposals only go to that RAC. And we had a second. Do we have any discussion on the motion? So we have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion on the motion?

Brayden Richmond: I want to have a little discussion. I don't want to vote for this motion because I just want to vote for the motion that we accept it. So I'm going to not vote for this with the understanding that I'd like to vote for the motion as presented.

Dave Black: So are you withdrawing your second.

Brayden Richmond: I didn't second, Wade did. I just said I support it because I hunt down there.

Dave Black: Okay, so we do have a motion and a second.

Brian Johnson: So we either have to vote for it and turn it down . . .

Dave Black: Okay, we have a comment over here.

Bill Bates: Okay, Bill Bates with the Division of Wildlife, just to give you some clarification and why this is being brought around to all the RACs around the state is that after the Southern Region deer permits went out last year, remember we voted on those, we had some questions come up at the Wildlife Board meeting on why wasn't this presented at other RACs where people from all over the state hunt in all these different units. And his honor Marty Bushman got with me and asked the same questions and directed us to bring them out. And since people from all over the state hunt these units it's appropriate to bring them here.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move to a vote. If you don't like the way it's presented then you can vote accordingly. So all those in favor? All those opposed. So motion fails. 7: 4. So I will entertain a new motion.

Brayden Richmond: I'd like to make a motion that we accept it as is.

Rusty Aiken: I second that.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion to accept the Southeast Region Deer Management plan as presented and a second. All those in favor? Unanimous.

**Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the SER Deer Management Plan as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: All right, item number 9, is the CWMU Management Plans.

**CWMU Management Plans (action) 3:31:33 to 3:43:58 of 4:16:07**  
**-Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/ Private Lands Coordinator**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

Wade Heaton: Jacob's Creek, so they withdrew their boundary change.

Scott McFarlane: That's correct.

Wade Heaton: So the Division is recommending approval given the old boundary but you are recommending with the bull elk, permit increases?

Scott McFarlane: Yeah, they requested an increase of 10 bull elk permits and the Division is in agreement with that. It's a general season unit, there's really no restrictions on it and so, yeah we're recommending approval of the increase in permits.

Dave Black: Any other questions?

**Questions from the Public:**

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

Lee Tracy: United Wildlife Cooperative. As I understand it then these permits or these contracts or whatever you want to call them are a 3-year contract, is that correct?

Scott McFarlane: Yes that's correct.

Lee Tracy: Okay, in light of the upcoming change in the rule would these, the current CWMUs fall under that new rule change?

Scott McFarlane: What would happen is that any CWMUs that are currently operating under a program, once they, they would finish out their 3 years. If they're entering into a new CWMU, yes they would follow all the rule changes; but they would more than likely . . . some of the things that are included in the rule changes will be effective on all the CWMUs and I will get into that. But most of the rule changes are clarifications. And like one of the things that's recommended that there's an annual training program and all the CWMUs would have to comply with that beginning in 2016, as soon as the rule passes. I don't know if that answers what you . . .

Lee Tracy: Well I was speaking specifically, as I understand it, that the public lands that are now counted as part of their acreage will no longer be counted?

Scott McFarlane: That's one of the things that we will get into on that, but that's any of the CWMUs that are entering into the program in order to establish a CWMU they could not use public lands to establish the minimum acreage. So that's in the next presentation.

**Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: we don't have any comment cards.

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? Go ahead Wade.

Wade Heaton: Full disclosure, I am an operator of one of these CWMUs and so I would like to excuse myself when we vote.

Dave Black: Okay, so noted. Do we have . . . I guess we're ready for a motion. Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the CWMU management plan as presented.

Dave Black: Do we have a second? We have a second from Rusty. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous (Wade Heaton abstained). Thank you.

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept CWMU Management Plans as presented.  
Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously (Wade Heaton abstained).**

Dave Black: And item number 10, is the Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016. That's also by Scott.

**Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 (action) 3:48:12 to 3:52:39 of 4:16:07  
- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/ Private Lands Coordinator  
(See attachment 1)**

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Any questions from the RAC?



**Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Any questions from the public?

None

**Comments from the Public:**

Kevin Bunnell: I just have one comment from Riley, why only 96%? Come on.

Dave Black: Okay, no comment cards.

**RAC discussion and vote:**

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

Craig Laub: I make a recommendation, I make a motion we approve the recommendation.

Dave Black: Okay, we have, do we have a second? We have a second from Dale. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Motion carries unanimously.

**Craig Laub made the motion to accept Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, our last one is item number 11, which is the CWMU Rule Amendments.

**CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 (action) 3:53:07 to 4:07:35 of 4:16:07**  
**- Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/ Private Lands Coordinator**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Do we have any question?

Rusty Aiken: I got a question. So, so what have they never, the owners and operators ever been able to have tags on their own property?

Scott McFarlane: They are not able to apply on them. They can have tags on their own property but they can't apply, and they haven't been able to, and I don't know how long that's been in effect but a lot of years through the public draw. And the reason they do that is because the public has to have some benefit out of this program. It's the public's wildlife that resides on private land but the public; their benefit is that they can apply for these, you know, without having to pay trespass fees and everything. So yeah, it's always been part of the program but it was buried in a definition of what public was. So this is just clarifying it saying that, you know, it's even been published in our guidebooks that they can't do that. This is just a clarification on that.

Rusty Aiken: So what's the definition of an operator? Like a manager?

Scott McFarlane: The operator is the person that's designated, that runs the day to day operations of the CWMU. It's the person who's number, their contact number is published in the, on our online website.

Kevin Bunnell: They can use one of their private tags.

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Wade.

Wade Heaton: Scott that last slide, I don't know if that was just a typo or if it's just really late and my brain is not working. The added language clarify the rule Rusty was asking about, it says that to clarify landowner association members, is that supposed to say CWMU association members?

Scott McFarlane: Um, the association members are always referred to as landowner association members in the rule and that's why it's worded as that.

Wade Heaton: Whether they're landowner or CWMU?

Scott McFarlane: Yeah. Anybody that has land in or is the president or the operator, they're all considered landowner association members. And so the association is the conglomeration of the landowners that constitutes the CWMU. But throughout the rule they're referred to as landowner association members.

#### **Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Okay, any questions from the public?

None

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

Dave Black: No comment cards.

None.

#### **RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? Ready to entertain a motion?

Wade Heaton: My last comment. Two things, a lot of work went into this rule review. We only open this up every 5 or so years and a lot of work went into this, especially by Scott. He's put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this program and a lot of these changes that he's proposing are really good changes. Any way appreciate him. And my second comment is because of my association with the program I'm going to recuse myself from this vote as well.

Dave Black Okay.

Rusty Aiken: I'll make motion to accept the CWMU, rule R657-37 as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second?

Layne Torgerson: I'll second that.

Dave Black: And a seconded by Layne. Any discussion? All those in favor? That's unanimous with one  
reclusion.

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept CWMU Rule Amendments R657-37 as presented.  
Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously (Wade Heaton abstained).**

### **Other Business**

#### **-Dave Black, Chairman**

Brian Johnson: I have one thing.

Dave Black: Okay.

Brian Johnson: Is there any way we can get the PowerPoint, we talked about it last time, of getting the  
PowerPoint emailed to us for the next RAC? It sure does clarify a lot of stuff if we could get that  
emailed to us. I'm asking anybody to help. You look guilty. You look guilty.

Kevin Bunnell: I will ask Stacy.

Brian Johnson: Will you please? Thank you.

Kevin Bunnell: Yes.

Dave Black: All right. The next RAC meeting . . . Oh one more comment. Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: There was a note from Mike Christensen about point systems on the youth. There's a  
disadvantage if you were born 6 months of the year, the other year. Could we get a clarification on that?  
Kevin?

Kevin Bunnell: Sorry I was typing, ask that again.

Rusty Aiken: That comment that Mike Christensen sent out about the point system for the youth. There's  
a discrepancy depending on what time of the year you were born. Could we . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah I think under other business you could make a motion to ask the Wildlife Board to  
look at that.

Rusty Aiken: Right, or the point people or something. Just so it's taken. . . .

Kevin Bunnell: That's up to your Chair, whether he's willing to let you address that under other business  
I think.

Rusty Aiken: Please.

Dave Black: Yes, that's fine.

Brayden Richmond: Dave, I talked to Justin about this. He has a great answer. I don't know if he's, he's chomping at the bit to come up.

Justin Shannon: I'm really not. How is that for honesty? You're not recording still are you? I'm joking. So yeah, it's a good question. The email that was received on bonus points for youth and those types of things, there were a couple of things that play there; one was the dates of when you could actually apply for these permits. And that December 31<sup>st</sup> date that was in the email, Brayden, is set in stone with the legislature. I don't want to say set in stone but it's legislatively set. Oh I'm sorry. Who brought it up? I'm sorry Rusty. Okay, so that date is set in stone as to when you can apply for limited, or I'm sorry, I don't mean set in stone, the legislature has set that date. Now the other date when it comes to defining a youth, even tonight we worked through the waterfowl definition of when the definition of youth would occur. And over the last two years we've been trying to standardize all of our dates so we had one. And this started when I first came on as a coordinator and it's been big game and all these other things because before then we have four different definitions of what a youth was in Utah. And so to help clarify, that's kind of why we standardized it. Now one of the negative consequences of that is as you put in for a management buck permit there's no doubt if your birthday is before or after that July 31<sup>st</sup> date it does influence whether you get three permits or four. And so that's what was at the heart of that email. So . . .

Dave Black: So where do we go? I mean do we want to look at it? Is it worth looking into more or that's a fact of life or?

Justin Shannon: yeah, whatever the RAC would like to do. You know it's tough to pick a date that doesn't have a hunting season going on and that's why that July 31<sup>st</sup> date was a good one. There wasn't the big game hunt, not the waterfowl hunts, and your upland game hunts aren't going on. And um, I think it's going to be tough to pick a date that isn't arbitrarily influencing these permits, or points one way or the other.

Rusty Aiken: So have you talked to Mike about it?

Justin Shannon: Yeah Mike and I have chatted on the phone about it.

Rusty Aiken: So he's good?

Justin Shannon: It's a real concern to him. I mean, yeah he's, and we've explained the why at least and gone back and forth that way, but yeah.

Dave Black: Okay, you're good. All right I have no other business other than to remind you that the next RAC meeting is December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in Richfield. With that I call this meeting adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.**



Google earth

miles  
km



2

4



Attachment #2

Google earth

Del

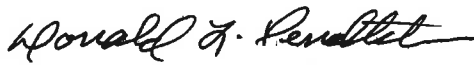
UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS

I LIKE TO HUNT WITH A MUZZLE LOADER BUT WITH THE SIGHTING DEVICES THAT ARE NOW LEGAL IT IS EXTREMELY HARD FOR ME TO FIND MY TARGET ESPECIALLY WHEN I AM TRYING TO HUNT SPIKE ELK. ABOUT THE ONLY CHANCE THAT I HAVE IS TO FIND A LONE SPIKE. IF THERE IS A HERD OF ELK IT IS PRETTY MUCH IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP TRACK OF A LEGAL BULL. THESE ONE POWER SCOPES MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK SO FAR AWAY IT IS HARD TO HUNT DEER OR ELK.

PLEASE MAKE IT LEGAL FOR US TO USE SCOPE ON OUR MUZZLE LOADERS. IF SOME PEOPLE DON'T LIKE THEM THEY CAN CERTAINLY USE WHATEVER THEY ARE USING NOW.

THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS ISSUE.

SINCERELY



DONALD L PENDLETON

1620 EAST HWY 119  
RICHFIELD, UTAH  
84701

This guy is 84 years old and doesn't have a computer and the RAC members don't have their mailing addresses listed on the web site. He has been in the hospital and still isn't in a position to ride clean down to Cedar City and sit through a meeting so he asked me to take them down for you.

## MAIN POINTS

1- ONE POWER SCOPES MAKE EVERYTHING LOOK FARTHER AWAY THAN IT REALLY IS. THE CROSS HAIRS COVER UP A LOT OF YOUR TARGET.

2- IT MAKES IT A LOT HARDER TO HUNT WITH ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU ARE STARTING TO GET A LITTLE LONG IN THE TOOTH LIKE A LOT OF US ARE GETTING. I'LL BET MOST PEOPLE OVER 50 WOULD NEVER VOTE AGAINST MAGNIFYING SCOPES ON MUZZLE LOADERS IF THEY REALLY USE THEM.

3- MOST HUNTERS THAT ARE ASKING YOU TO APPROVE THE DWR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ALLOW SCOPES WITH MAGNIFICATION REALLY DON'T WANT TO SHOOT FARTHER THEY JUST WANT TO SHOOT BETTER AT NORMAL MUZZLE LOADER RANGES. THE PEOPLE THAT ARE SHOOTING TO FAR NOW WILL BE THE SAME PEOPLE THAT WILL SHOOT FARTHER THAN WHAT IS ETHICAL WITH SCOPES. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEGISLATE GOOD MORALS, COMMON SENSE AND ETHICS.

4- WE HAVE GIVEN THE YOUTH EXTRA TAGS SPECIAL SEASONS AND ALL KIND OF CONCESSIONS TO TRY AND GET THEM TO BE HUNTERS AND SPORTSMAN BUT WE REALLY HAVEN'T EVER GIVEN MANY CONCESSIONS TO THE OLDER PEOPLE THAT HAVE BOUGHT LICENSES AND SUPPORTED THE DWR ALL THEIR LIVES. ALLOWING SCOPES ON MUZZLELOADERS EVEN IF THEY ARE ONLY A 4 POWER WOULD SURE HELP THEM TO BE ABLE TO KEEP HUNTING.

5- THE DWR IS RECOMMENDING ALLOWING HUNTERS TO USE SCOPES ON MUZZLE LOADERS BECAUSE A MAJORITY OF HUNTERS THAT RESPONDED TO THE STATEWIDE SURVEY THAT WENT OUT TO THOUSANDS OF HUNTERS WERE IN FAVOR OF SCOPES. THIS IS A FACT THAT CERTAINLY SHOULDN'T BE IGNORED BY THE RACS OR THE BOARD.

6- PEOPLE COULD STILL USE WHAT THEY ARE USING NOW IF THEY DON'T WANT TO USE SCOPES.

7- CHANGE THE WORDING IN THE PROCLAMATION TO ALLOW SABOTED OF AT LEAST 185 GRAINS TO BE USED ON ALL BIG GAME IN UTAH.

8- THE MUZZLE LOADER HUNT IS AND NEVER WAS DESIGNED TO BE A PRIMITIVE HUNT IN UTAH. IT WAS ADDED TO GIVE SOME ADDITIONAL HUNTING OPPORTUNITY FOR HUNTERS. IF IT WERE A PRIMITIVE HUNT YOU WOULD BE SHOOTING A FLINTLOCK, WALKING OR RIDING A HORSE TO GET WHERE YOU COULD HUNT. YOU COULDN'T USE A 4 WHEEL DRIVE

OR AN ATV, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BINOCULARS, SPOTTING SCOPES,  
RANGE FINDERS OR TRAIL CAMS.



**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah  
November 18, 2015**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of today's Agenda and Minutes**

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

**Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments-2016**

**MOTION:** To accept the 2016 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule as presented.  
Passed unanimously

**Statewide Elk Management Plan Revisions**

**MOTION:** To accept revisions to the statewide elk management plan as presented with the addition that youth 17 years of age and younger be given preference for antlerless elk permits in the drawing.  
Passed unanimously

**Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments**

**MOTIONS:**

1) That the Division look into revising big game season dates as a whole with the goal of moving archery seasons to September to improve opportunity and prevent meat spoilage.

Passed with two opposing votes (9-2)

2) That the muzzleloader scope regulation be left unchanged.

Passed with three opposing votes (8-3)

3) Prohibit the attachment of electronic range finders on bows

Passed with four opposing votes (7-4)

4) That the Division look at all hunt boundaries and remove all national parks from the hunt boundary descriptions and maps.

Passed with four opposing votes (7-4)

**5) That the Central Mountains-Manti deer unit boundary be changed to include the Green River valley.**

**Passed unanimously**

**6) That the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2016 Season Dates, Application Timeline and R657-5 Rule Amendments be accepted as presented with the inclusion of all aforementioned motions.**

**Passed with one opposing vote (10-1)**

**SER Deer Management Plans**

**MOTION: To accept the SER Deer Management Plans as presented.**

**Passed unanimously**

**CWMU Management Plan**

**MOTION: To accept the CWMU Management Plan as presented, except that two additional bull permits be granted to the Scofield Canyons CWMU.**

**Passed unanimously**

**Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016**

**MOTION: To accept the Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2016 as presented.**

**Passed unanimously**

**R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments**

**MOTION: To accept the R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments as presented.**

**Passed unanimously**

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal**  
**November 19, 20156**

**5. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS - 2016**

**MOTION to accept the Division's proposal as presented**

**Passed unanimously**

**6. STATEWIDE ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS**

**MOTION to accept the Division's elk plan as presented**

**Passed 5-4**

**7. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL 2016 SEASON DATES, APPLICATION TIMELINE AND R657-5 RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to accept DWR's plan as presented**

**Motion passed 8-1**

**8. SER DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**MOTION to approve the plan as presented**

**Motion passed 8-1 abstention**

**9. CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**MOTION on the West Willow Creek CWMU to accept as presented**

**Passed 7-2 abstentions**

**Tim Ignacio: Abstain because I don't agree with the dates on the length of the tags.**

**Daniel Davis: Abstain because of public property included in the unit**

**MOTION: On Blue Mountain Mulies to accept the Wildlife Board's denial for this year but allow Jed to clean up some of the issues with the boundary and allow him to reapply next year in a different format without the other factors such as violations.**

**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION to accept the rest of the CWMU management plans as presented**

**Passed unanimously**

**10. LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2016**

**MOTION to allow nine elk tags on the Book Cliffs LOA this year for the next three years and deal with the other one Mustang Ridge when it comes in for elk.**

**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION by David Gordon that we go along with the Division's recommendation for the rest of the presentation**

**Passed unanimously**

**11. R657-37 CWMU RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to accept rule changes as presented**

**Passed unanimously**

**NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office**  
**November 19, 2015**

**RAC Members in Attendance:**

Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture  
Brett Prevedel, Public At-Large  
Joe Arnold, Public At-Large  
Jerry Jorgensen, Elected Official  
Randy Dearth, NER RAC Chair  
Boyd Blackwell, NER Supervisor  
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service  
Melissa Wardle, Non-Consumptive  
David Gordon, BLM  
Daniel Davis, Sportsmen

**RAC Members Not in Attendance:**

Joe Batty, Agriculture  
Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive

**Wildlife Board Member Present:**

Kirk Woodward

**Division Personnel in Attendance:**

Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator  
Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator  
Guy Wallace, SER Wildlife Manager  
Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Pvt Lands Coord.  
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager  
Amy VandeVoort, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Shane Kitchen, NER Law Enforcement  
Randall Scheetz, NER Sergeant  
Eric Miller, NER Law Enforcement  
Alex Hansen, NER Wildlife RecProgramsSpecialist  
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager  
Rori Lübbers, NER Office Specialist

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Randy Dearth**

David Gordon motion to approve agenda  
Brett Prevedel second  
Passed unanimously

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Randy Dearth**

David Gordon motion to approve minutes  
Mitch Hacking second  
Passed unanimously

**3. OLD BUSINESS/WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Randy Dearth**

There was nothing much different than what had been proposed by NER RAC.

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

*Habitat* is wrapping things up for this year, winterizing guzzlers and our game farm. The biologists will be meeting and coordinating projects for next year. If you have interest in projects, contact Miles Hanberg or Pat Rainbolt.

*Wildlife* biologists are doing post-season deer classifications. If any RAC members want to go with the biologists, make an appointment through Dax Mangus or Randall Thacker.

*Conservation Outreach:* Pheasants releases in conjunction with SFW are underway and will continue until December 6. Putting them in 16 places in our NER region. Statewide there are 57 sites. We will be releasing 13,000 roosters. We are encouraging you to wear hunter orange for safety. Since we've been putting pheasants out there have been a lot more people hunting.

*Aquatics:* Red Fleet Treatment was a complete success, now we have started restocking. The past two weeks our biologists have put in some Colorado River cutthroat trout, wipers, and rainbow trout. Those will get us going. More wipers will be planted in spring, also tiger trout and sterile walleye. Forage fish will be fatheaded minnows to get things started as well as yellow perch. Black crappie, and mountain whitefish will eventually be going in. I like the prospect of fishing for walleye and wipers. It'll be fun.

*Law Enforcement* will be starting winter range patrols. If you have anything you want to report, flag them down and help us out.

#### **5. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS - 2016 - Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator**

(see handout)

#### **Questions from RAC:**

Mitch Hacking: When you do bag limits and seasons, how involved is the Federal government?

Blair Stringham: It is in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We work closely with them to work on season dates and lengths. Ultimately it falls on them to approve or deny changes.

Mitch Hacking: So we have their approval?

Blair Stringham: Yes.

David Gordon: So the Fish and Wildlife has already approved these bag limits.

Blair Stringham: Yes. They did in October.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

None

**Comments from RAC:**

None

**MOTION by David Gordon to accept the Division's proposal as presented  
Jerry Jorgensen: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

**6. STATEWIDE ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS - Justin Shannon, Big Game  
Coordinator**

(see handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Was the last plan a fiveyear one?

Justin Shannon: Yes, and this will be a seven year plan.

Mitch Hacking: On your targeted habitat elk projects, on your sage chicken areas, can you use the same habitat plans? Are they compatible with the sage grouse?

Justin Shannon: Yes. We manage sage grouse and elk. As we go through projects, we consider sage grouse on that. Our habitat biologists are really conscious of other species.

Mitch Hacking: There are maybe some areas where you can't do projects that benefit mainly elk.

Justin Shannon: We've got plenty of habitat to be treated without infringing on sage grouse.

Brett Prevedel: On the overlapping spike hunts, someone could theoretically take their family hunting. If someone drew out, the rest could buy a tag later and go together?

Justin Shannon: Yes, family members could get permits too later.

Brett Prevedel: Some landowners don't want bull tags because they're not hunters. maybe want a portion of money. I have a question on chronically overpopulated cow hunts. We already have control cow tags don't we?

Justin Shannon: It's just an additional management tool. If you had an area that you didn't want antlerless elk control permits. There are a lot of migration issues, it's a way to get additional November harvest.

Brett Prevedel: Unit by unit discussion then?

Justin Shannon: I can't even think of a unit that we would try this on yet. It's the spirit is to give biologists tools to be able to use in the future.

Joe Arnold: With the Dedicated Hunter program proposal. What is the response of benefit for more opportunity to harvest all three seasons, is the quality better for elk?

Justin Shannon: There are a lot of hunters applying for the dedicated hunter program for deer. Elk doesn't have the same pressures because you can buy a general season permit, so it's not something we're going to right away, it's another tool for the future. It might cover hunting spike or any bull units in the future.

Daniel Davis: I have a question that is law enforcement-based. Having this mid-season hunt, will it create a problem?

Randy Scheetz: As far as law enforcement, it would add substantial wasted time on our part. Especially in the Wasatch we get a lot of calls where individuals have shot branch-antlered bulls with spike tags. If we had that in the same units, we would have problems. Also, it would confuse the public where we tell the public to call us if they see this happening and it would be legal, and other issues with problems wouldn't get called in. We've had 14 illegal kills documented just in this last year alone. And we're probably looking at less than 50% of people calling in.

Daniel Davis: With this plan, what areas of focus on the general season would it coincide with?

Justin Shannon: This plan just says if we should we have them or not in the next presentation Thousand Lakes, Paunsaugunt, Grouse Creek, and Deep Creek. In the memo, I also put Diamond Mountain because it is the same season dates but it wouldn't be held there.

Daniel Davis: But it could grow to any unit in the state.

Justin Shannon: Wildlife management is difficult because there are always pros and cons. It's to try things small and see if it can work and if hunters say they like it or don't like it, and also take into consideration if it will be a real problem for law enforcement.

Dan Abeyta: Currently all four of those units already have an early and a late hunt so this would be a third one.

Justin Shannon: Yes. I would have to check but I think so.

### **Questions from Public:**

Alan Dattage: Is muzzle loader coming up next?

Tyrell Abegglen: My family has turned in a few calls in Wasatch and Book Cliffs on spike units killing bigger bulls. It's going to be more tempting to get these 400 class bulls. Also, elk control tags need clarification on where you can take cows. Is there any way that we can clarify that so the public is aware of where they can hunt on cow areas? I've gotten wrong information from people who should know. I've had to explain it to them.

Justin Shannon: It's in the proclamation.

### **Comments by the Public:**

None

### **Comments and Discussion by the RAC:**

Jerry Jorgensen: I agree with the public on parts and with the Division on parts. Can we separate it out?

Daniel Davis: I agree. You're going to open it up to party hunting. I think there's opportunity for after, but I don't think the overlapping should occur. We're relying on the sportsmen to hold each other honest. It's easy to identify a branch-antlered animal taken during a spike season.



Brett Prevedel: We've got people waiting 18 years to take an elk tag and they're worried about getting a tag before they're too old to hunt. If they chose a lesser tag, it would be an opportunity to hunt.

Daniel Davis: Which is why I said going later in the year.

Brett Prevedel: Older people would need some help and need someone to go with them not in the middle of winter.

Bryant Jackson: Could they let elderly people hunt problem areas later in the year?

Daniel Davis: Later in the year, elk are going to congregate lower rather than have the problems. Dan, did you guys talk about other opportunities for the elderly?

Dan Abeyta: I don't recall.

**Question from Public:**

Austin Burton: We have an issue with the overlap and the cold. Why can't we do a similar hunt in between there between September and November?

Daniel Davis: I have gotten a lot of feedback on that too. Was there ever discussion about doing it during the rifle season?

Justin Shannon: There's really not a nine-day window without overlapping. We wrestled with it. We have hunts right now where we have deer hunts that overlap elk hunts and it hasn't been crazy detrimental in those ways.

Daniel Davis: So this plan has nothing to do with dates?

Justin Shannon: The best place to look would be the Recreation Strategies - LE Units On appropriate LE units, provide a mid-season and/or late season rifle elk hunt to increase hunting opportunity or improve hunter distribution. slide. Because they both need to be voted on, we presented this first to adjust here and then adjust in the next presentation.

Ely Jackson: Where the spike overlaps the limited entry hunt in the Book Cliffs in archery? The people who have put in for 19 years and drew the tag, what's your feedback on the intrusion of spike hunters coming in and coinciding with the premium tag holders? Limited entry trophy hunt and a spike hunt happening at the same time, you're increasing the number of people buzzing

around, scattering the elk everywhere. If I had waited 18 years and had somebody shoot a spike and sending my bull elk over the hill. I would not be happy.

Justin Shannon: The archery hunt, has a long season about the last seven days closest to the rut, the archery is shut down so only the limited entry hunters are there by themselves.

Ely Jackson: So are the overlapping dates with rifle or archery?

Justin Shannon: That mid-season hunt wouldn't be nearly as good as the early or late, but that's by design because if you have 19 points you should be putting in for either the early or late hunts. There would be a disclaimer for hunters hunting the mid-season hunt, to acknowledge that the hunt has lower quality but you're likely to be able to draw with fewer points.

Jessy McKee: On spike tag numbers in the Book Cliffs and limited entry, are you seeing a decrease in the quality of the bulls because of spike hunt? I think you're going to see a decrease in the quality of bulls.

Justin Shannon: We manage bulls to an age objective. The three-year average is 7.4 years old. As far as quality on scoring, I couldn't speak to that but age objective wise we're right there or exceeding it.

Jessy McKee: I think in the future you're going to see your quality go down.

J.C. Brewer: On the 15,000 spike tags statewide, you stated that if the success ratio is over 20% you would reduce the number of permits next year to 14,000. How would you do that?

Justin Shannon: With 15,000 permits now, it's all over the counter sales. Last year we were at 13% success. Say this year it's 21 %. Next year instead of 15,000 we'd allocate 14,000, first come, first served.

Aly Bywater: Why couldn't you do the other elk hunt early September, then the only thing you'd be messing with is archery. There would still be big bull elk, branch-antlered

Justin Shannon: The reason why we're doing this is when we asked the committee, they said we're harvesting way too many bulls in September and wanting to push permits later in the year. Another rifle hunt won't alleviate the problem the committee brought up.

Dan Abeyta: As a committee we struggled with this. It was not unanimous. With this, it's something that would be on a trial basis. We're only talking about four units statewide. If it were to be passed and to the Wildlife Board, how long would this take if it wasn't working out?

Justin Shannon: Probably two years. If we try it for the fall of 2016, we'll know our limited entry concerns pretty early but won't get harvest results until after the Board and RAC meetings have occurred. The comment section from the hunters is something I'm extremely interested in because we're trying to provide hunting opportunities for the public. It's one of these deals, you don't know if it will work until you try.

Daniel Davis: With the allocation between archery, rifle and muzzleloader is it based on management needs, will the permits come out of the rifle pool?

Justin Shannon: When we're setting the number of permits, the total number is based on age.

David Gordon: You're requesting as a wildlife agency to allow one more hunt in the limited entry if we need it.

Justin Shannon: It's about the need to pull the permits out of the early hunt. We want our public process to get us this dialogue. I'm glad we're getting the scrutiny we're getting tonight.

Dan Abeyta: Was there a consensus in the other regions?

Justin Shannon: The elk plan has passed every region with one minor correction in the SER but on this, we haven't had the level of discussion like we've had here tonight.

**MOTION by David Gordon to accept the Division's elk plan as presented**

**Dan Abeyta: second**

Discussion:

Daniel Davis: I feel we need to opportunity to manage the dates in another portion of this, I feel it's a good plan but we need to manage the season dates.

Joe Arnold: I would also like to consider the spike hunts during limited entry hunts. I'm hearing from limited entry people who are not happy, The age class is where it needs to be now but has it been going long enough to tell about it in the future?

Justin Shannon: We've been doing it since 2009 and even before then, we've been doing it in units in the Wasatch for the last 20 years.

Substitute Motion: Jerry Jorgensen: I propose that we accept the plan except strike the mid-season overlap. That's the only thing that I disagree with.

Daniel Davis second the substitution amendment

The first motion drops out and the substitute motion is on the table now. If it fails, we will revert to the original motion.

Jerry Jorgensen: Personally I don't think it's a good idea to have spike hunters out during a limited entry hunt. It could lead to party hunting.

Daniel Davis: Just elk during the spike season on the Recreation Strategies - LE Units screen.

Randy Dearth: We accept the elk management plan as its been presented with the exception of the last line mid-season hunts will overlap the general season spike elk hunt. We don't allow that to happen.

Boyde Blackwell: If there's a limited entry hunt going on, you would not be able to have a mid-season hunt for spike on that unit.

Favor:

Tim Ignacio, Jerry Jorgensen, Daniel Davis

Opposed:

Mitch Hacking, Brett Prevedel, Dan Abeyta, Melissa Wardle, David Gordon

Substitute motion failed – 5-3 with 1 abstention

**Reverting to the first motion to accept plan as presented and seconded:**

**Favor:**

**Mitch Hacking, Brett Prevedel, Dan Abeyta, Melissa Wardle, David Gordon**

**Opposed:**

**Joe Arnold, Tim Ignacio, Jerry Jorgensen, Daniel Davis**

**Passed 5-4**

**7. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL 2016 SEASON DATES, APPLICATION TIMELINE AND R657-5 RULE AMENDMENTS - Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

(see handout)

## **Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Why are you eliminating the late youth hunt?

Clint Sampson: The early hunt is a great hunt. On the late hunt, we're setting them up to fail. The success rate is extremely low and I get a lot of calls from upset parents. We added permits to the early hunt, and what we'll do to address the issues depredation issues that are caused from removing that hunt is to draw from the remainder of youth applicants who didn't draw and go to them to hunt depredation elk. The late hunt was set up to deal with problem elk and the last few winters we haven't had problems with depredation elk.

Randy Dearth: We're not decreasing opportunities for the youth?

Clint Sampson: Right. The late season youth hunt is a tough hunt. We'll be better off giving the kids opportunities in the early season.

Daniel Davis: What about eliminating the Grouse Creek limited entry archery elk hunt?

Justin Shannon: This is a unit that borders Nevada and Idaho. There's a lot of migration but the quality bulls for this unit don't come in until much later. It hasn't been a quality hunt so we want to eliminate this one and reallocate it to other hunts. We would shift it to later hunts. We don't want to set hunters up to fail.

Brett Prevedel: Can you buy two cow elk and one bull?

Justin Shannon: When it comes to over the counter opportunities, we have the antlerless elk control permits, private lands only permits, vouchers for mitigation/depredation situations., depredation hunter pool.

Joe Arnold: On the muzzleloader recommendation, will there be a cap on the power?

Justin Shannon: 60% were in favor of scopes on muzzleloaders. It really boils down to a social issue. If the RACs want to debate it that's a good conversation. There is no cap on scopes.

Dan Abeyta: What was the reason for the five-day bump back on 2016 General Season Deer Hunt dates?

Justin Shannon: What drives it is the closest cycle to October 22.

Jerry Jorgensen: What's considered a computerized rifle sight?

Justin Shannon: It's called a smart gun. Where you lock the target on the animal and the gun does not discharge until you're going to hit the target. Accuracy is extremely high. What we're trying to do is ban those guns from big game hunting.

### **Questions from Public:**

Blake Bess: Dedicated hunter. On high-powered scopes from muzzleloaders, did you think about people wounding animals with these high powered scopes?

Justin Shannon: We consider this whole conversation a social issue. It's hard to predict what's going to happen. As we have scopes on muzzleloaders, hunters who were going to take ethical shots, will continue to take ethical shots. Others won't. The reason we were comfortable with scopes on muzzleloaders is we want hunters to make good shots. We've heard from hunters having struggles with open sights. A 1 power scope is a demagnification. We decided to take it out for public input. I

Austin Burton: I was wondering, if there was going to be a magnification put on muzzleloader, what would it be? a 3 x 9 might be reasonable.

Justin Shannon: Let me clarify the recommendation, if it's passed, is that we can put scopes on muzzleloaders to harvest and there's no limit on the magnification power. We're not capping it. You can simply use scopes on muzzleloaders.

### **Comments from Public:**

Blake Bess (Dedicated Hunter): I'm pretty concerned on this new late muzzleloader hunt you guys are proposing. I don't see bucks you guys are proposing for the hunt. The late hunts are hurting our deer herds worse than they are.

Tyrell Abegglen: I'm concerned about the elk control permits. The law enforcement and licensing agencies are not giving out accurate information.

Matt Draper: On the late youth elk hunt, I've known a few people who have drawn it and they didn't realize that the early and late hunts are totally different boundaries, the late being further east and a private land type hunt. I just thought I'd share that the boundary is separate.

### **Comments by RAC:**

Randy Dearth: I like the comments about the additional magnification on muzzleloader but I'm not sure I like unlimited magnification. I'd feel more comfortable having some kind of a limit on that. I'm in favor of additional range finders on bows. I think that's a good idea.

Brett Prevedel: Regarding areas open to either sex elk over objective with muzzleloader. When would we have input on that?

Justin Shannon: We're setting a framework tonight. You would see a recommendation this spring.

Brett Prevedel: Regarding the statewide Bucks, Bulls and Once-in-a-Lifetime recommended changes for muzzleloader deer on the South Slope Yellowstone, do we vote on that tonight?

Justin Shannon: Yes. It's on the slide.

Daniel Davis: Can we break it down into separate motions?

Randy Dearth: Yes. I thought we could do it on muzzleloader deer, muzzleloader scopes, etc.

**MOTION by Mitch Hacking to accept DWR's plan as presented**

**Tim Ignacio: second**

Substitute motion by Daniel Davis regarding the Rule 657-5 weapon restrictions, change that to a 4X scope on muzzleloader, not to exceed 4X, and leave the rest of the rule as stated.

No second.

Substitution dropped.

**Original Motion to accept DWR's plan as presented**

**Favor:**

**Mitch Hacking, Tim Ignacio, Brett Prevedel, Joe Arnold, Dan Abeyta, Melissa Wardle, David Gordon, Daniel Davis**

**Opposed**

**Jerry Jorgensen**

**Motion passed 8-1**

## **8. SER DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS - Guy Wallace, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager**

(see handout)

### **Questions from RAC:**

None

### **Question from public:**

Blake Bess: On the San Juan Elk Ridge slide. Current population 700, population objective 7,000. What are you doing to help get that back up where it needs to be?

Guy Wallace: Transplants, habitat work on winter range, a priority for predator control, liberal bear and cougar permits. The 7,000 population objective was determined in the 80s. We were looking at harvest data from when these were open units. It may or may not be where it ought to be. This is a short-term objective to see if we can make it to 5,600.

Blake Bess: You're still looking at a 5,000 number deficit. Are you lowering tag numbers?

Guy Wallace: No we're not because we're only selling 50 permits and at the five-year bucks. With the few permits, part of the issue is that we don't see really good fawn production. There is enough to maintain production but not to increase it.

Tyrell Abegglen: On the Henry Mountains, I've observed the last year or two, the five-year bucks have gone down. Any idea what the cause of that is?

Guy Wallace: We're seeing an increase in populations and what we're trying to do is keep the buck/doe ratio without taking more big bucks. We're harvesting the cream of the crop every year but we still average a six-year old buck every year.

Tyrell Abegglen: You used to be able to take pictures of big bucks all day long and it's getting harder and harder to find big bucks.

### **Comments from Public:**

Blake Bess: I'd like to tell RAC I'm concerned about the population for elk and deer herd is really hurting. We ought to look into doing a little more about it. We have a 5,000 number difference on the graph. We have a serious problem.

### **Comments from RAC:**



Mitch Hacking: This is the SER deer management action plan . I'm an agriculture representative for NER. Why would I be qualified to vote on this?

Boyd Blackwell: Our deer management plans are actually made in the regions, however they have an effect statewide. We have one person here who hunts on Elk Ridge, we had somebody else comment on the Henries, and this has gone all around the state. We felt everybody should be able to provide some input if they have it and a recommendation, we ought to hear it here as much as anywhere else in the state.

Mitch Hacking: How did they vote?

Guy Wallace: It was approved.

Randall Thacker: Mitch, next year we will be taking the NER's action plan around the state for everyone to be able to comment on.

Jerry Jorgensen: Why you'd try to manage the Henry Mountains at 50 - 100 buck/doe ratio and a lot of competition for breeding rights. I wonder if there would be any way to hold a special hunt to wean out some of the ugly bucks.

Guy Wallace: The management permits are for bucks that are three points on one side.

Jerry Jorgensen: Okay, well that seems okay to me then. It just seems like a pretty high ratio.

Joe Arnold: On the objective being 5,000 way low, the strategy is, you're maintaining the same amount of permits, and the objective how do you expect to get to the objective?

Guy Wallace: We can maintain because of the low number of permits. The other we address through habitat, transplants and predator control.

Daniel Davis: Do you have wild horses down there?

Guy Wallace: No.

**MOTION by Jerry Jorgensen to approve the plan as presented**

**Melissa Wardle: second**

**Motion passed 8 – 1 abstention**

**Tim Ignacio, Brett Prevedel, Joe Arnold, Jerry Jorgensen, Dan Abeyta, Melissa Wardle, David Gordon, Daniel Davis**

**Abstain: Mitch Hacking**

**9. CWMU MANAGEMENT PLANS - Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

(see handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Daniel Davis: West Willow Brook Ranch property takes in five sections of public land but you'll find that it's not as bad as it seems. I want to be the last one to take away public areas but the Book Cliffs is different. It's not like it's limited entry on both sides of the fence. To make it a good experience for the CWMU permit holder to make it continuous and give good opportunities to hunters to hunt. To make it a good hunt for both parties. You're not going to feel like there are guys feeling cheated out of the hunt.

Daniel Davis: How many acres: Private land is 19,200 Public is 300 some acres.

Scott McFarlane: When public lands are in an area there are an additional 70/30 split instead of a 90/10 split and so West Willow Creek is willing to give an additional public permit to compensate for it.

Daniel Davis: And the permits allocated to that CWMU, will that be in addition?

Clint Sampson: The landowner permit will take that out of the public draw. It's a show of good faith giving an extra tag for that public land.

Joe Arnold: On this West Willow Creek, it's only for deer and pronghorn?

Scott McFarlane: Deer and pronghorn.

Joe Arnold: Is this Agency Draw?

Joe Batty: I have a map. Johnson Draw, Greens Draw, west desert area

Brett Prevedel: How is it managed for elk where it's not an elk CWMU?

Scott McFarlane: The public lands would be open for elk on public lands . They're requesting 10 deer permits with 7/3 split. The public is getting an extra two permits out of this because of the inclusion of public lands.

Joe Arnold: Is patrolling this area a problem?

Clint Sampson: Absolutely. If the public land is not included in that, it would be a nightmare to post. One solid block, everybody will be treated fairly and easier to enforce.

Joe Arnold: So crossing Willow Creek you'd just post it saying public lands are included?

Scott McFarlane: Every 300 yards it will be posted as a requirement.

Joe Arnold: And they fall under different season dates?

Scott McFarlane: They would fall under the general season dates for the CWMU and what they've requested for deer is September 1-31. What they've requested which is within the rule, they can have a 61 day season September 11 - Nov 10.

Three of them go through the public draw and seven of them would be issued to the CWMU as a voucher to sell or give away.

### **Questions from Public:**

Jed Olson (Landowner applied for Blue Mountain CWMU): I'd like to know why the Division doesn't think it's a good hunting unit?

Dax Mangus: When we look at a boundary and set u hunting unit boundaries, we're going with a major terrain feature, road or river, so people don't make mistakes. When you've got multiple fence lines through fields. When you look at the perimeter of the CWMU compared to the size of the CWMU, people are going to be confused. There are donut holes and parcels of land jutting in and out. It's not contiguous with a good clear boundary. We don't want anyone to inadvertently hunt where they're not supposed to hunt.

Lynn Bowright: I appreciate the information about the application. I am also on the CWMU application. What suggestions would you have to make this a better application? There's a boundary issue but from your perspective, how would you go about making it a no-brainer so it would be easy to understand the boundaries?

Scott McFarlane: When you have slivers of land that jut out, what we look at is blocks of land that are clearly definable by the public. This is just under 6,000 acres so it's hard to reference where parts are connected by just 40-acre parcels that's so chopped up. We would need you to work with having this so there are larger pieces. If there is public pieces that help lock the land up so it's easily identifiable. We don't want the public to have a hard time finding out where they can hunt. Thin slivers of land don't work all that well.

Lynn Bowright: Are fences considered a good solid boundary?

Scott McFarlane: Yes

Lynn Bowright: In this case, there is a fence line all around the parcels. I have parcels of land where I have 100 deer and no ability to remove them now that the hunting season is over. What remedies do we have at this point so that our cows can have the feed instead of 100s of deer?

Scot McFarlanet: This would fall under our depredation program. Whether it comes in the form of monetary compensation or designing a late-season hunt. We can work with the region to design hunts even that aren't published in the proclamation with a hunter depredation pool or long-term hunts in the proclamation.

### **Comments from Public:**

Jed Olson: I grew up in Manila ranching. I worked for my dad my whole life. In 2008 I started allowing people to hunt and have picked up adjoining landowners. I feel like this would make a good unit. It has a fence line all the way around it. You would have to cross a fence. There's one section that's not fenced. I'm willing to work with the Division. If that's a concern, I would take that section out. I feel like everyone in the area knows where the private ground is. Also, some of these spots that don't look that big, they're bigger. I've run a cow elk cooperative hunt with four different ranches since 2012 through depredation hunts and have not had a problem with boundaries and people hunting on improper ground.

Mitch Hacking: What's the bad boy stuff?

Jed Olson: We got a violation for hunting without wearing hunter orange. Last year I received a trapping violation ticket. I have about 100 traps. you need an identification number. I was negligent on a few of my traps and did not have the number on them. Those are my violations.

Brett Prevedel: What other landowners are there?

Jed Olson: (Listed the four landowners.) I lease all of their hunting rights on their property.

Mitch Hacking: You're not a clean one owner like the rest of us, right?

Jed Olson: Right.

David Gordon: There's a big section on the middle top.

Jed Olson: Two of the Pallesens didn't want to sign up for it. and Jerry Jorgensen didn't want to be part of it.

Boyde Blackwell: What's the rule on posting?

Scott McFarlane: It's to post all property corners, gates, rights of way into the property, fishing streams, roads crossing. The recommendation also came from our law enforcement. It's in the best interest of the CWMU to post it more than adequately and there are a lot on this property and property corners.

Joe Arnold: Mr. Olson said they run elk management hunts. What's the difference between the CWMU and mitigation vouchers/depredation?

Scott McFarlane: Signed up multiple landowners. In the past, you could only hunt on one ranch, but with four other landowners, no matter what voucher you have, you can kill that elk, no matter where it is.

### **Comments by RAC:**

Jerry Jorgensen: I've known Jed for about 10 years. He's a good citizen of Daggett County. I support the wildlife people in the denial but at the same time I think it's incumbent of us to create a path for Jed to get to where he wants to go. His land is already an enforcement nightmare. I think by giving him a CWMU it would be better than leaving it as it is now. From an enforcement standpoint I think it would make more sense to turn it into a CWMU. Most of the frontage is bordered by the highway, so the signage is easy. It's already impossible to trespass on it. I think it could be worked out so the property boundaries were distinguishable. I would like to see the recommendation be to go back to the drawing board, give Jed a way to be repentant for his violations and give him a way to get this thing marked and go that way. It also surrounds a lot of state ground. I think having the private be a CWMU would enhance the public hunting. Not now, but going forward.

Mitch Hacking: This gives him some help with depredation and allows some public to come in.

Daniel Davis: I've been a beneficiary in a CWMU, I think they're great programs. I've also been on the other side where we were hunting a unit vested in receiving that permit and public lands were inaccessible because of the boundaries of the CWMU. I hate to see more of our public land be taken away for three tags in the Book Cliffs. I think there's a lot more than three people who hunt that area on the West Willow. I see the issue here because if they have to encompass public land on this Blue Mountain CWMU, I see that as a problem.

Mitch Hacking: Is there public lands landlocked?

Jed Olson: There's no public land.

Clint Sampson: Here's a map of the Willow Creek CWMU.

Joe Arnold: My concern is not pronghorn and deer, it's about the elk. This is a good elk unit What would happen there?

Clint Sampson: The more habitat improvements we do, the more elk start living in places they haven't been before. When I patrolled out there, in law enforcement, I never patrol checked anybody elk hunting.

Joe Arnold: I've seen big elk out there. If it becomes a CWMU, will they add elk to it?

Clint Sampson: Yes. We just chose to take it slow.

Scott McFarlane: If they were to add elk, they would have to go through the process.

Clayton Batty: Mustang Fuel has a desire to increase the elk population, they've done projects. We hope that in coming years we can include elk to the CWMU but we don't think we can offer a quality hunt yet.

Tim Ignacio. How long do these permits last?

Randy Dearth: Deer September 11 - Nov 10.

Tim Ignacio: I've got problems with that because that's when the deer are migrating through there. I'd hate to see the gene pool get killed.

Randy Dearth: They're going to limit it to 10 deer hunters in the whole area. This year there have been hunters in there.

Tim Ignacio: We do have Tribal lands on both sides of it.

Randy Dearth: Let's do three motions Willow Creek Ranch, Blue Mountain Mulies and one for the rest of it.

**MOTION on the West Willow Creek CWMU by David Gordon to accept as presented  
Dan Abeyta: Second**

**Favor:**

**Mitch Hacking, Brett Prevedel, Joe Arnold, Jerry Jorgensen, Dan Abeyta, Melissa Wardle,  
David Gordon**

**Abstain:**

**Daniel Davis and Tim Ignacio**

**Tim Ignacio Abstain because I don't agree with the dates on the length of the tags.**

**Daniel abstain because of public property**

**MOTION: On Blue Mountain Mulies by Jerry Jorgensen to accept the Wildlife Board's denial for this year but that we allow Jed to clean up some of the issues with the maps and property and allow him to reapply next year in a different format without the other factors such as violations.**

Mitch Hacking: What about community service and jail time?

Jerry Jorgensen: He comes by the jail every day.

**Mitch Hacking second**

**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION by David Gordon to accept the rest of the CWMU management plans as presented**

**Tim Ignacio: second**

**Passed unanimously**

**10. LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION PERMIT NUMBER FOR 2016 - Scott McFarlane,  
Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

(see handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: If a public guy draws a permit for the limited entry, is it a possibility that he can hunt on the LOA property?

Scott McFarlane: Yes. If an LOA divides out the permits within the LOA members and the piece of property the hunter would like to hunt, he qualifies through the Association to hunt qualifies for two public hunters. The way that's done they would contact the president of the LOA. It's on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of permits they qualify for, they would have to let an equal number of public hunt also.

Brett Prevedel: On the six elk on the Book Cliff, do they come out of the limited entry total quota?

Scott McFarlane: Yes.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

Gordon Vandyke (representing LOA): On the elk tags, we would like to maintain our nine tags that we've been getting. We're losing Mustang Fuels so were losing 19,000 acres but we're still feeding the same number of elk. We have one area that's an oasis for elk 100-300 head all summer long. As for the water, probably 60-70% of the water is on private ground year round. We're still maintaining all of the damages even though we're losing some of the acreage. We'd like nine tags to offset the damages we've received. We do a lot for the elk and the deer. The expense is enormous, and that's how we would offset the cost.

Jessy McKee: Some of the ground got pulled out but the cost is still there. Nothing changes from what the past has been. I'm saying the same thing that Gordon said.

Josh Horrocks: On behalf of sportsmen, I'd like to echo what the other two talked about. If you give value to the wildlife it benefits everybody. The water in the Book Cliffs help raise the elk. Let's go with what they want and take care of them.

**Comments by RAC:**

How many permits?

Clint Sampson: 139 permits



Randy Dearth: If we were to do what's being talked about go to nine instead of six and then in a couple years down the road, they want more tags, would that three tags come out of the pool that is allocated to sportsmen, is that correct?

Clint Sampson: Yes

Brett Prevedel: So these six or nine permits would come out of sportsmen?

Clint Sampson: We haven't had many drastic changes.

Jerry Jorgensen: You heard what these guys said. Is that true?

Clint Sampson: Absolutely. Joe obviously saw some bulls out there, but in my mind, the majority of land that left from Mountain Fuels did not sustain a significant amount of elk damage, there was no cropland or irrigated land in what left. They're still dealing with the same amount of damage even though they lost 19,200 acres.

Jerry Jorgensen: Why would we want to punish them?

Clint Sampson: We take the total amount of private land that falls within the elk habitat number. Take that number and take whole Book Cliffs unit and calculate the total amount of elk habitat and create a percentage from there. The numbers don't lie. There's 24 almost 25,000 private lands acres. We all have bosses.

Jerry Jorgensen: Can you make exceptions?

Clint Sampson: We have laws and rules by which we have to abide.

Brett Prevedel: We're not being impacted now if Mustang Fuels is not asking for any elk tags.

Randy Dearth: I'd recommend one motion to decide on the numbers for the Book Cliffs LOA and another motion for the rest of the proposal.

**MOTION by Brett Prevedel to allow nine tags on the Book Cliffs LOA this year for the next three years and deal with the other one Mustang Ridge when it comes in for elk.**

Tim Ignacio: Question, if Mustang Ridge comes in and wants an additional three elk, who's pot is that coming out of?

Randy Dearth: Out of the public's.

Clint Sampson: It all comes out of the same pot.

**Jerry Jorgensen: second**  
**Passed unanimously**

David Gordon: Clarification. On the last one, it was just for the elk?

Yes

**MOTION by David Gordon that we go along with the Division's recommendation for the rest of the presentation**

**Daniel Davis: second**

**Passed unanimously**

**11. R657-37 CWMU RULE AMENDMENTS - Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator (ACTION)**

(see handout)

Mitch Hacking: On the youth hunt, I'm glad to see that there's hope for it. There's always been hold ups.

Scott McFarlane: There is a lot of support for this. It's a donation. They have a resources they'd like to utilize for this purpose. We have a legal hold up with definitions, attorney things. The When we took this to the AG's office, they have to do some rule changes for definitions .

That's why we changed it from a management buck to a non-trophy. One of the reasons we did that was because we don't want a youth to shoot a a buck that was guided by a landowner. If it has a fourth antler even though small, it could be illegal and give the youth a bad experience. Now, with a change in ruling, Whatever it is, if the landowner determined it was a non-trophy, the youth could harvest it with no consequences.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

None

**Comments from RAC:**

**MOTION by David Gordon to accept rule changes as presented**

**Melissa Wardle second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Motion to adjourn**

**David Gordon**

**Randy Dearth second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:05 pm**

**Next RAC Meeting:**

**December 10, 2015**



Utah Division of Wildlife and Utah Wildlife Board  
RE: Bighorn sheep area conservation permit season variances

To: Utah Wildlife Board and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources,

As the two conservation organizations that were awarded bighorn sheep area conservation permits to be marketed for 2016-2018, Utah FNAWS and SFW wish to request season date variances for all area specific bighorn sheep conservation permits for this time period. For perhaps the last 10+ years, these area conservation permits have had an opening season date coinciding with the opening date established by the Wildlife Board annually for each unit, but they have also had variances added to extend the seasons through December 31st. We wish to propose the same variance in season dates for these area conservation permits for 2016-2018. We feel that the added days at the end of the season allows both draw hunters and conservation permit buyers an equal start date but allows flexibility and a longer season for these permit buyers who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for the opportunity to hunt Utah's bighorn sheep.

We specifically petition the Wildlife Board to grant this season date variance, allowing bighorn sheep area conservation permits to begin hunting on the same opening day set by the Wildlife Board for the draw permits for each respective unit, but that the seasons run through December 31st. We appreciate this consideration and the benefits it brings to the dollars raised through the conservation permit program

Sincerely,

Adam Bronson-President  
Utah FNAWS

Jon Larsen- President  
Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife



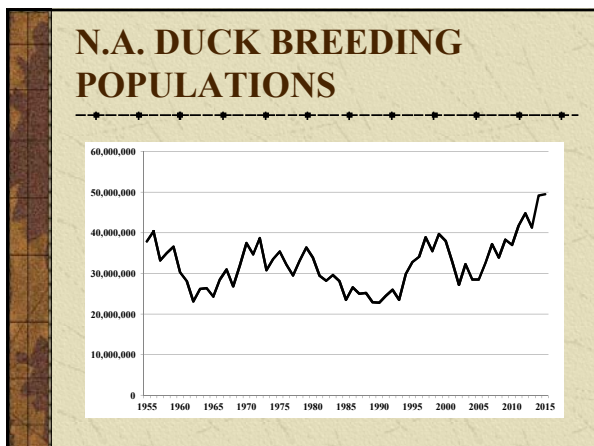
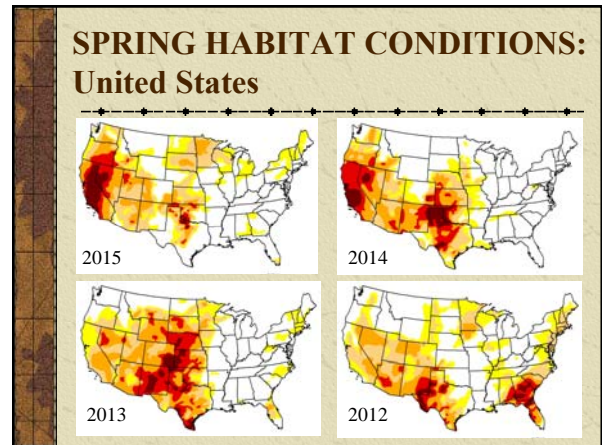
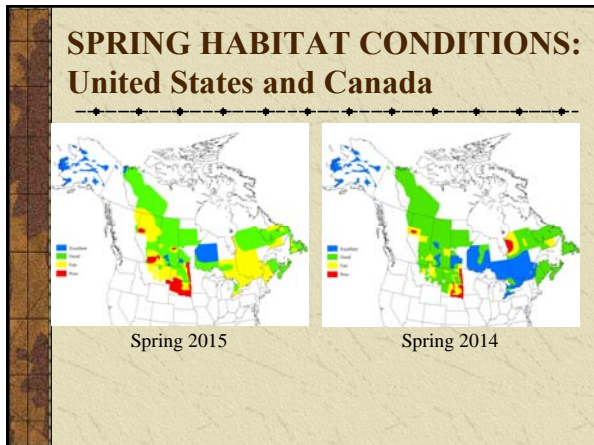
## MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Time frame**

- Flyways → USFWS → State Selections → Published → Hunt
- (Sep)      (Oct)      (Nov)      (Jun)      (Sep)

\* Set season dates well in advance of hunting season  
\* Print guidebooks earlier

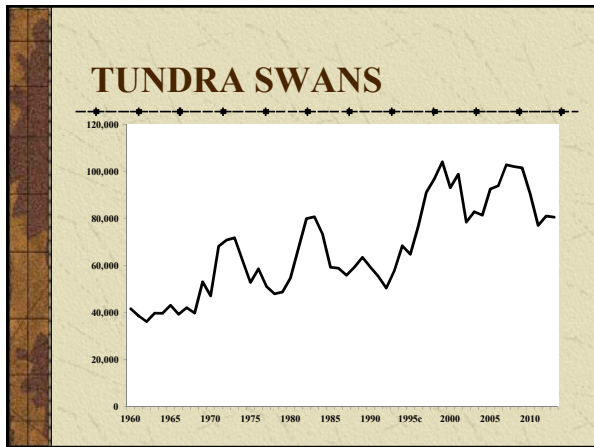
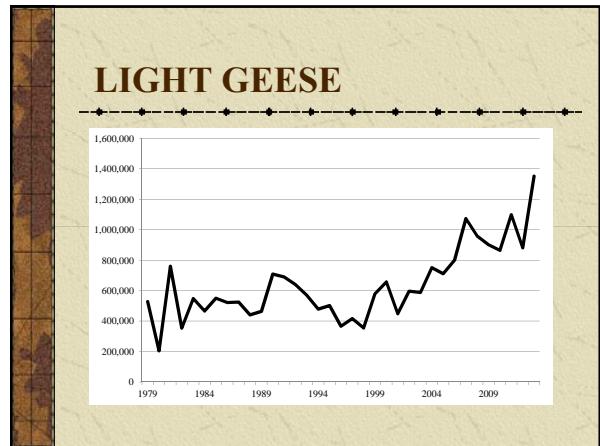


### N.A. DUCK BREEDING POPULATIONS

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SPECIES	15 vs 14	15 vs LTA
♦ Mallard	=	↑
♦ Gadwall	=	↑
♦ Wigeon	=	↑
♦ GW Teal	↑	↑
♦ Shoveler	↑	↑
♦ Pintail	=	↓
♦ Canvasback	↑	↓
♦ Scaup	=	↓
♦ Redhead	=	↑
♦ <b>Total</b>	<b>+1%</b>	<b>+43%</b>

\* Arrows represent 10% or more



## REGULATION PACKAGES PACIFIC FLYWAY

WESTERN MALLARD MODEL

PACKAGE	SEASON LENGTH	BASIC BAG
<b>LIBERAL</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>RESTRICTIVE</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Pintail</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Canvasback</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Scaup</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>3</b>

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

Duck/Merg/Coot Snipe/Falconry	Oct. 1 - Jan 15, 2017; Statewide
Scaup	Oct 1 - Dec 27
Duck/Merg Bag	7 Daily / 21 Possession; 2 H Mall, 2 Wood Duck, 2 Reds 2 Pin, 2 Can, 3 Scaup
Coot Bag	25 Daily / 75 Possession
Snipe Bag	8 Daily / 24 Possession
Falconry Bag	3 Daily / 9 Possession

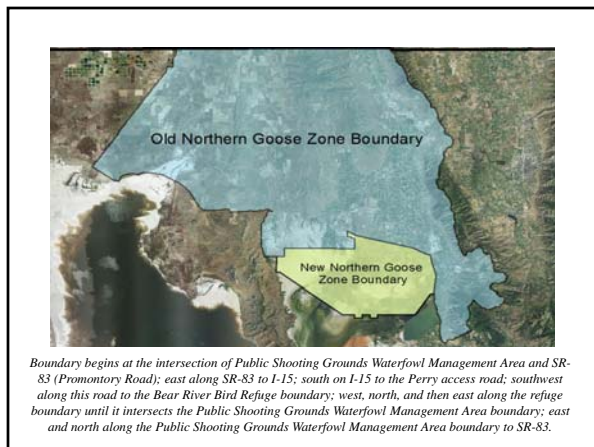
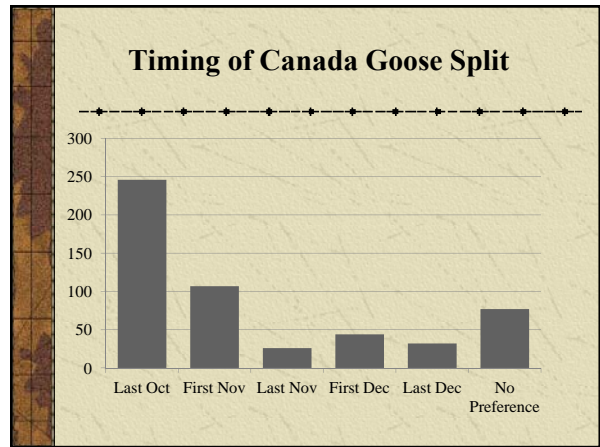
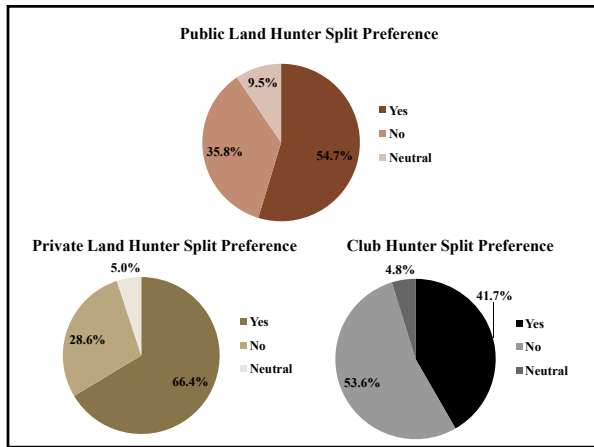
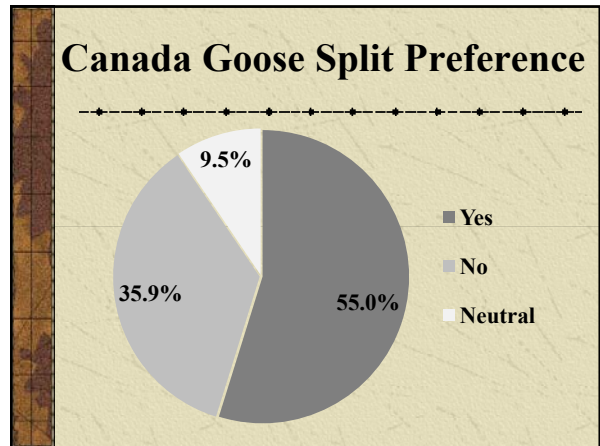
## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

**Tundra Swan Oct 1 - Dec 11  
GSL Area  
Permit Required  
(2000 Permits)**

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

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- ✦ Controversy over Northern Goose Zone
- ✦ July: Goose Zone Survey
  - Preference for zone change
  - Timing of break in season
- ✦ August: Open House
  - Feedback on new zone recommendation based on survey feedback



### New Northern Goose Zone

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- ✦ Strong support for this new configuration from open house participants
- ✦ Meets needs of users
- ✦ Provides increased hunter opportunity
  - Bear River Refuge remains in Northern Zone
  - 128 days of goose hunting

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

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**Dark Goose Seasons**

- Northern Zone**  
Oct 1 – Jan 14
- Urban Zone**  
Oct 1 – Oct 13  
Nov 5 – Feb 5
- Rest of the State**  
Oct 1 – Oct 13  
Oct 22 – Jan 22



**Dark Goose Bag 4 Daily / 12 Possession**

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

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**Statewide Hunt / Open Zone**

- **October 25 to November 30**
- **January 16 to March 10**
  - Closed in Millard County from February 6 – February 28
  - Closed on all WMAs except Clear Lake


**Light Goose Bag 20 Daily / 60 Possession**

## 2016-17 WATERFOWL SEASON

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**Youth Day (17 or younger): Sept 17**

- anyone younger than 18 on July 31, 2016
- must have adult with them (18 or older)
- youth older than 15 will need a duck stamp



## Rule Changes

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- ✦ Taking Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe and Coot (R657-9)
  - ◆ Change youth age from 15 to 17





## 2015 Statewide Elk Plan



## Introduction

- This plan provides guidance and direction for managing Utah's elk populations.
- This is being proposed as a 7 year plan.
- Elk recommendations will be made in accordance with this plan.



## Elk Committee Members

- Members
- RMEF Bill Christensen
- Agriculture Neuel Charlson
- CWMU Dan Jorgensen
- SFW Troy Justensen
- Farm B. Spencer Gibbons
- Elected Of. Mike Schultz
- BLM Robin Naeve
- UBA Ben Lowder
- Public Rick Lunt
- Public Steve Sorensen
- Public RJ Martin
- BYU Brock McMillan
- DWR
- John Fairchild Facilitator
- Guy Wallace Region
- Kent Hersey Salt Lake
- Justin Shannon Chair
- RACS/WB
- Dan Abeyta NER/FS
- Layne Torgerson SR
- Larry Fitzgerald CR
- Craig Van Tassel NR
- Kari Ivory SER
- John Bair WB

## Committee Meetings

- Five meetings from June 2 – August 11.
- ~ 25 hours spent on management plan.
- **Approach:**
  - List what is working well with elk management and areas we can improve.
  - Develop meaningful goals, objectives, and strategies to address issues on the "areas we can improve" list.

## Population Goals and Objectives

- **Population Management Goal:** Improve management of Utah's elk populations.
- **Statewide Population Objective:** the sum of objectives contained in unit management plans.



## Population Objectives/Strategies

- **Objective 1:** Maintain healthy elk populations at biologically and socially sustainable levels.
  - Set objectives and manage elk at appropriate spatial scales that account for migration patterns.
  - Establish advisory committees to review unit management plans when considering a change in the herd size objective.

### Population Objectives/Strategies

- If drought conditions and high elk densities are negatively impacting habitat, recommend more antlerless elk permits at the August WB meeting.
- During severe winters, aggressively harvest antlerless elk to minimize conflicts.
- Allow muzzleloader bull hunters to harvest a cow on select units over objective (similar to archery).
- Increase the number of general season cow elk a hunter may annually harvest.
  - Only 1 cow elk permit through the public draw.

### Population Objectives/Strategies

- Objective 2: Foster support among stakeholders for Utah's elk management program.
  - Address all depredation problems in a timely and efficient manner to increase landowner tolerance.
  - Increase communication between UDWR and stakeholders.
  - Increase tolerance of public land grazers by doing habitat projects that benefit livestock and wildlife.

### Population Objectives/Strategies

- Objective 3: Achieve a proper distribution of elk on private and public lands.
  - Create a private-lands-only permit to encourage and target cow elk harvest on private lands.
  - Investigate an incentive program for landowners to qualify for bull elk permits based on cow harvest.
  - Review eligibility requirements for landowner incentive programs to increase cow elk harvest and/or improve elk distribution.

### Habitat Goal

- Habitat Goal: Conserve and improve elk habitat throughout the state.



### Habitat Objectives/Strategies

- Objective 1: Maintain sufficient habitat to support elk herds at population objectives and reduce competition for forage between elk and livestock.
  - Increase forage production by annually treating a minimum of 40,000 acres of elk habitat.
  - Coordinate with Watershed Restoration Initiative partners to identify habitat restoration projects.

### Habitat Objectives/Strategies

- Promote let-burn policies in appropriate areas that will benefit elk, and re-seed post wildfires.
- Support programs, such as conservation easements, that incentivize private landowners to keep prime elk habitat managed as rangeland.



## Habitat Objectives/Strategies

- Objective 2: Reduce adverse impacts to elk herds and elk habitat.
  - Work cooperatively with UDOT and other agencies to limit the impacts of roads on elk.
  - Coordinate with land management agencies and energy developers on oil, gas, and mining mitigation.



## Recreation Goals and Objectives

- Recreation Goal: Enhance recreational opportunities for hunting and viewing elk throughout the state.
- Objective 1: Maintain a diversity of elk hunting opportunities.



## Recreation Strategies – GS Units

- Continue to issue 15,000 statewide spike permits.
  - If harvest is > 20% statewide, permits will be reduced to 14,000 the following year.
- Issue 15,000 any bull permits.
- Continue to issue unlimited archery permits valid on both spike and any bull units.
- Investigate a dedicated hunter program for elk.

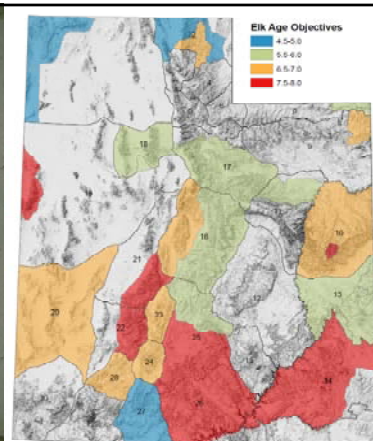


## Recreation Strategies – LE Units

- Provide 4 categories of age class objectives.
  - 4.5-5.0 / 5.5-6.0 / 6.5-7.0 / 7.5-8.0
- Age class considerations
  - Population size
  - Interchange with neighboring units
  - Access to elk
  - Proximity to urban areas
- Other considerations
  - Point creep, neighboring states and tribes, private land dynamics, and unit histories.

### Age Objective Changes:

- Cache, South:  
4.75 to 6.75
- Deep Creeks  
5.75 to 7.75
- Mt. Dutton  
5.75 to 6.75
- Panguitch Lake  
5.75 to 6.75
- Monroe  
7.75 to 6.75
- Pilot Mtn  
5.75 to 4.75



## Recreation Strategies – LE Units

- Set permits based on the following percentages:
  - 25% archery
  - 60% rifle
  - 15% muzzleloader
  - Percentages may vary to meet management needs.
- On appropriate LE units, provide a mid season and/or late season rifle elk hunt to increase hunting opportunity or improve hunter distribution.
  - Early season rifle permits will not exceed 60%, unless there is a management-related need.
  - Mid season hunts will overlap the general season spike elk hunt.

## Recreation Objectives/Strategies

- **Objective 2: Increase opportunities for viewing elk while educating the public concerning the needs of elk management and the importance of habitat.**
  - Use social media and other media outlets to promote interest and emphasize the importance of elk habitat and population management.
  - Highlight the importance of the conservation permit program, expo permits, WRI, and permits sales for funding efforts to improve elk habitat.

## Summary

- This plan provides direction and guidance for management of elk in Utah.
- The plan aims to provide wildlife biologists more tools to manage to objective, better distribute elk, and provide recreational hunting opportunities.
- Thank you again to those who served on the elk advisory committee.

Thank You



### 2016 BBOIAL Season Dates, Boundary Descriptions and Rule Changes



### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Clarify areas with special restrictions.
- In Salt Lake County, a person may:
  - only use archery equipment to take buck deer and bull elk south of I-80 and east of I-15
  - only use archery equipment to take big game in Emigration Township



### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Increase the number of elk permits a person can obtain annually to 3.
  - A maximum of 1 permit can be for a bull.
  - A maximum of 1 antlerless elk permit can be obtained through the public drawing.
  - A maximum of 2 antlerless elk permits can be obtained over the counter.

### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Define antlerless elk control permits.
  - Must first obtain a buck, bull, or once-in-a-lifetime permit.
  - May harvest an antlerless elk using the same weapon type, during the same season, and within areas of overlap between the boundaries of the BBOIAL permit and antlerless elk control permit.
  - These permits are sold online or over the counter.

### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Define private lands only permits.
  - Allows a person to take one antlerless elk on private lands using any weapon during the season dates and area as approved by the WB.
  - No boundary extensions or buffer zones shall be applied to the permits.
  - These permits are to be sold over the counter or online.

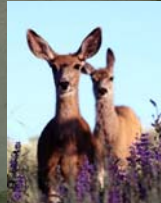
### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Allow general season muzzleloader bull elk hunters to harvest a cow or bull elk with their muzzleloader permit (similar to archery elk hunt).
  - May be recommended on units that are over objective or where hunter crowding is an issue.



### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Doe deer and pronghorn
  - Define 2-doe permits (allows a person to take two antlerless deer or pronghorn using the weapon type, within the area, and during the season specified on the permit).
- Other minor clarifications.



### Primitive Weapon Survey Results

- Conducted in summer 2015, >19,000 respondents
- The majority of big game hunters did not support:
  - The use of crossbows during archery seasons
  - Large caliber, center-fire rifles
  - Smart guns (computerized targeting firearms)
- The majority of big game hunters did support:
  - Electronic range-finders attached to bows
  - Scopes on muzzleloaders during muzzleloader hunting seasons

### Proposed Rule Changes to R657-5

- Prohibit the use of computerized targeting firearms to hunt big game.
- Allow magnifying scopes on muzzleloaders during the muzzleloader season.
- Allow the use of an electronic range-finding device attached to a bow to take big game.



### 2016 General Season Deer Hunt Dates

- Archery 8/20 – 9/16 28 Days
- Muzzleloader 9/28 – 10/6 9 Days
- Any Weapon 10/22 – 10/30 9 Days



### 2016 General Season Elk Hunt Dates

- Archery Spike Bull 8/20– 9/9 21 Days
- Archery Any Bull 8/20 – 9/16 28 Days
- Any Weapon 10/8 – 10/20 13 Days
- Muzzleloader 11/2 – 11/10 9 Days



### Statewide BBOIAL Recommended Changes

- Add 6 new limited-entry muzzleloader deer units. These units are managed for 18–20 bucks:100 does and are exceeding their objectives (3 yr avg).
  - Fillmore
  - Monroe
  - Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits
  - Plateau, Thousand Lakes
  - South Slope, Yellowstone
  - Wasatch Mtns, East



### Statewide BBOIAL Recommended Changes

- Add a limited-entry bull elk hunt that overlaps the general-season spike elk hunt in early-mid October on select units.
  - Box Elder, Grouse Creek
  - Paunsaugunt
  - Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes
  - South Slope, Diamond Mtn
  - West Desert, Deep Creeks
- We will ease into this approach and evaluate hunt-related issues.



### Southern Region Recommendations

- Discontinue the Beaver (nanny) mt goat hunt.
- Recently approved hunt boundary changes in unit deer plans will be implemented in fall 2016.



### Southeast Region Recommendations

- Alter the elk and bighorn sheep boundary on the Henry Mtns to align with the deer boundary.
- Alter the spike elk and bighorn sheep boundaries on the South San Rafael.



### Northern Region Recommendations

- Add an extended archery deer unit (Cache, Laketown) to address urban deer.
- Add the Pilot Mtn bighorn sheep hunt.
- Alter the Pilot Mtn bighorn sheep and elk boundary.
- Expand the boundary of the Pilot Mtn pronghorn hunt and rename it Box Elder, West.
- Change boundary of Snowville pronghorn hunt.
- Eliminate the Grouse Creek LE archery elk hunt.



### Central Region Recommendations

- No Changes



### Northeast Region Recommendations

- Discontinue the youth late-season any bull elk hunt.
- Add a bighorn sheep hunt on the Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin Unit.
  - Sportsman permit holder may hunt this unit during even years and statewide conservation permit holders may hunt this unit during odd years.



### Hunt Name Changes

- We are renaming several hunt units to clean up boundary-related issues on our website.

Species	Old Name	New Name
Elk	Fillmore, Oak Creek	Fillmore, Oak Creek South
	San Rafael, South	San Rafael, South-Dirty Devil
Deer	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	Wasatch Mtns, East
	Fillmore, Pahvant and Fillmore, Oak Creek	Fillmore
Pronghorn	Nine Mile, Anthro	Nine Mile, Anthro-Myton Bench
	Panguitch Lake	Panguitch Lake/Zion, North
	Plateau	Plateau, Parker Mtn
Mt Goat	Chalk Creek/Kamas	Chalk Creek/Kamas, Uintas

### Key Dates for 2016 Season

- Big game drawing for BBOIAL, new dedicated hunter applicants, and lifetime license holders:
  - Application period: January 28 – March 3, 2016
- Application period for bonus and preference points and application withdrawal period:
  - January 28 – March 17, 2016
- Results posted by May 27, 2016



### Key Dates for 2016 Season

- Hunters with disabilities General Season hunt extension dates:
 

– Archery Deer	8/15 – 8/19	preseason
– Muzzleloader Deer	9/23 – 9/27	preseason
– Any Weapon Deer	10/17 – 10/21	preseason
– Archery Elk	8/15 – 8/19	preseason
– Muzzleloader Any Bull Elk	11/11 – 11/16	postseason
– Any Weapon Any Bull Elk	9/10 – 9/18	preseason
– Muzzleloader Spike Elk	11/11 – 11/16	postseason
– Any Weapon Spike Elk	10/21 – 10/25	postseason



Thank You



## Southeast Region Mule Deer Management Plans



## Statewide Mule Deer Plan

- ▣ Approved by Wildlife Board in Dec. 2014
- ▣ Provides direction for deer management over the next 5 years
- ▣ Sets sideboards that unit plans must stay within
- ▣ Individual unit plans are written after the range trend evaluation

## Goals

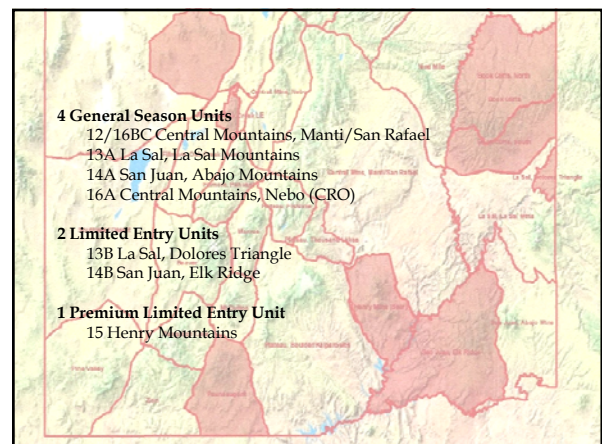
- ▣ Manage for a healthy population of animals that provide a broad range of recreational activities, including hunting and viewing.
- ▣ Maintain populations at levels within the long-term capacity of the available habitat.
- ▣ Improve and protect habitat.

## Population Strategies

- ▣ **Monitoring**
  - Harvest, population size, classification, etc.
- ▣ **Limiting Factors**
  - Crop depredation
  - Habitat
  - Predation
  - Highway mortality
  - Disease
  - Illegal harvest

## Habitat Strategies

- ▣ **Monitoring**
  - Range trend studies
  - Spring range assessments
- ▣ **Protection and Maintenance**
  - Minimize impacts
  - Mitigate for losses
- ▣ **Improvements**
  - Cooperate with various partners on projects

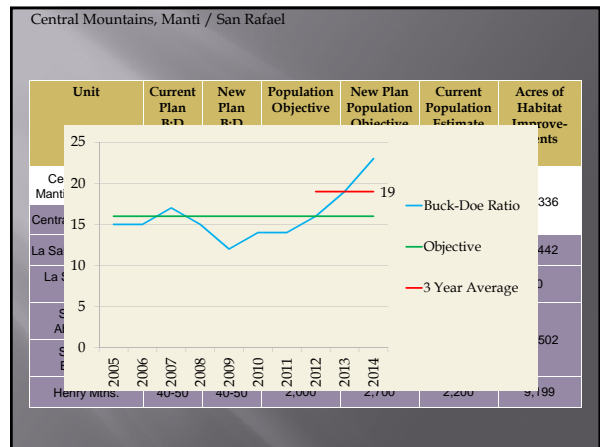
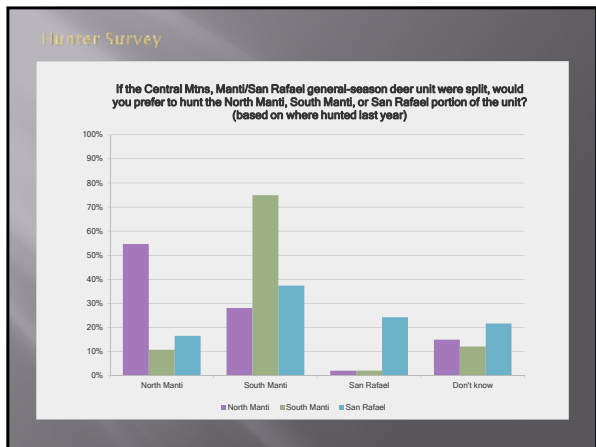
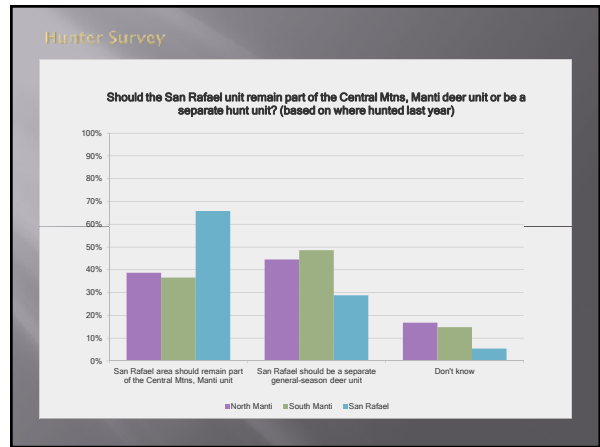
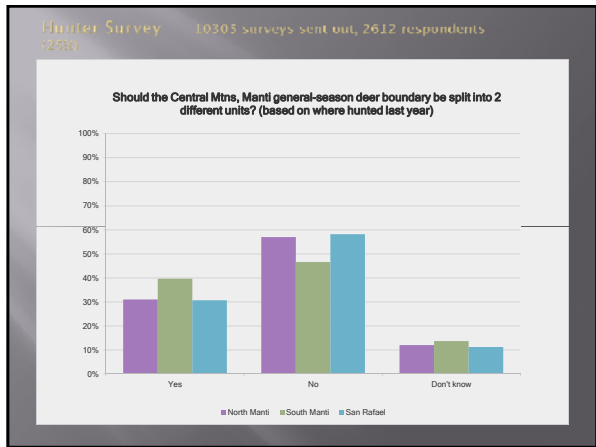


## Southeast Region Mule Deer Management Plans

- Directed by Wildlife Board to consider options to split the Manti unit and how it affects the buck-doe ratio
- Held 4 open house meetings to gather public input across the region
  - Outline boundaries
  - Management goals
  - Objectives
  - Strategies for deer populations and their habitats

### Open House Public Comments

Unit	Increase B-D ratio	Increase Pop	Older Age Class	Crowding/ No additional permits	Predation	Split Units
Central Mtns., Manti / San Rafael	X	X	X			X
La Sal, La Sal Mtns.	X	X	X		X	
San Juan, Abajo Mtns.		X			X	
San Juan, Elk Ridge		X			X	
Henry Mtns.				X		



### Central Mtns, Manti Unit

- Large public land unit, lots of road access
- Most popular general season unit
- 15-17 buck-doe ratio allows for additional hunting opportunity
- Higher buck-doe ratio reduces odds of drawing permits (less permits available)
- Higher buck-doe ratio increases potential for CWD transmission (more mature bucks)
- CWD lowers buck life expectancy (more difficult to maintain high buck-doe ratio)
- Fawn production remains good

### Central Mtns, Manti Unit

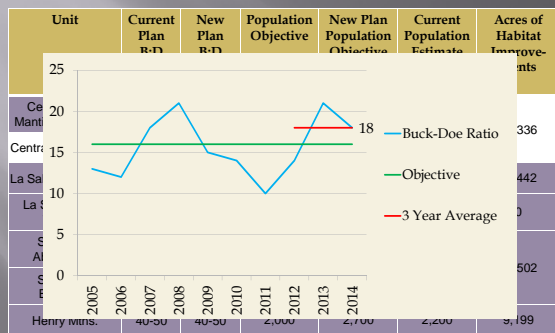
- Public survey indicates majority does not want unit split north-south
- Most San Rafael hunters do not want to split unit
- 50% of San Rafael hunters would not choose San Rafael unit if split (decrease odds of drawing Manti permit)
- San Rafael split difficult to determine boundary (split at highway 10 creates more problems)
- Can't use B-D objective on San Rafael (no data)

### Central Mtns, Manti Unit

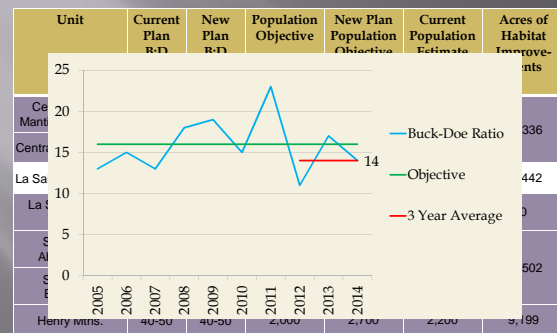
- Pursue augmentation to areas of chronic low deer numbers
- Transplant sites submitted to RDCC and no comments received
- Previous transplants indicate deer will remain in release areas (Elk Ridge)
- Expand telemetry studies to the south end of unit

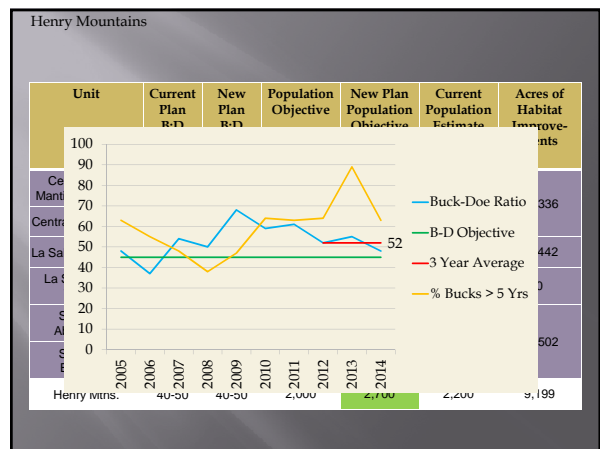
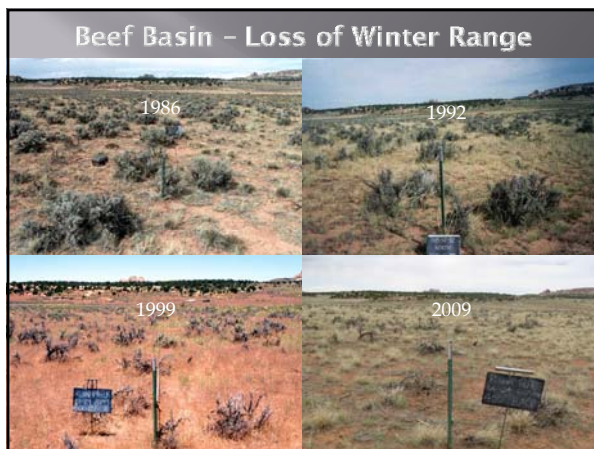
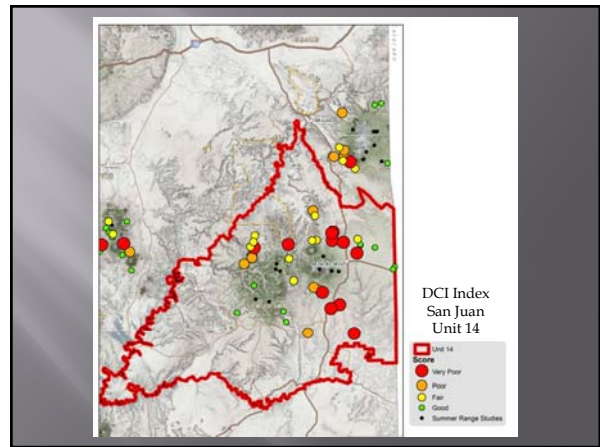
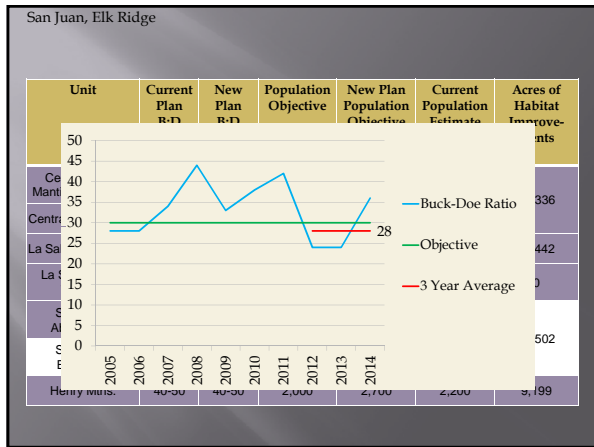
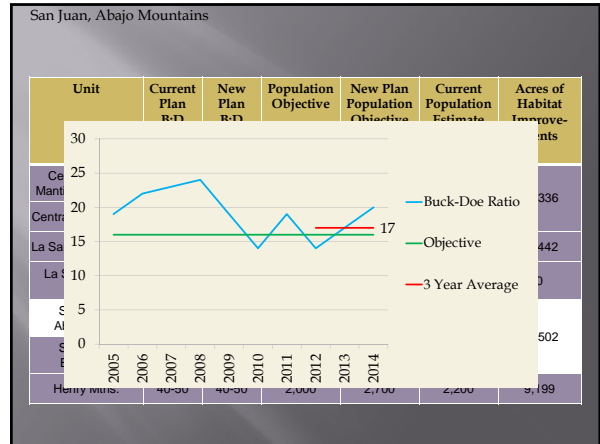
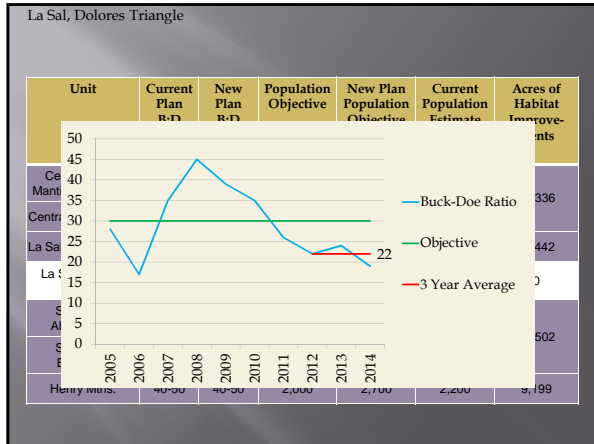


Central Mountains, Nebo



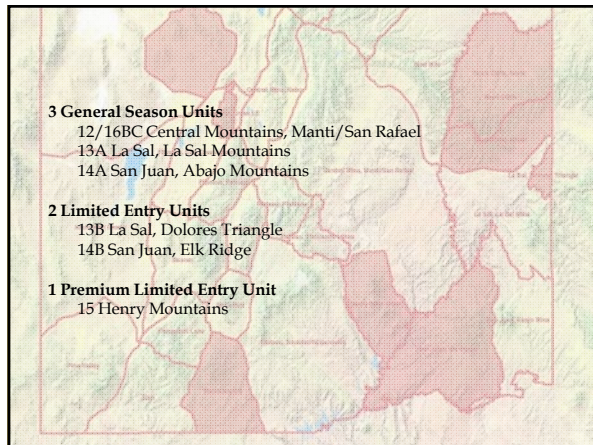
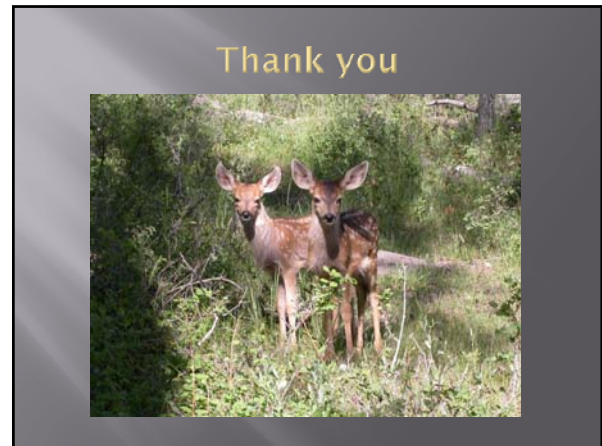
La Sal, La Sal Mountains





Summary

Unit	Current Plan B:D ratio	New Plan B:D ratio	Population Objective	New Plan Population Objective	Current Population Estimate	Acres of Habitat Improvements
Central Mtns., Manti / San Rafael	15-17	15-17	38,000	38,000	24,500	36,336
Central Mtns., Nebo	15-17	15-17	22,600	22,600	14,000	
La Sal, La Sal Mtns.	15-17	15-17	13,000	13,000	6,900	11,442
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	25-35	25-35	5,100	5,100	2,100	0
San Juan, Abajo Mtns.	15-17	15-17	13,500	13,500	10,700	17,502
San Juan, Elk Ridge	25-35	25-35	7,000	5,600	700	
Henry Mtns.	40-50	40-50	2,000	2,700	2,200	9,199





## 2016 CWMU BUCK/BULL RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2016 CWMUs

- New Applications
- Renewal Applications
- Change Applications (Amendments that require RAC/Board action )
  - Change in permit numbers
  - Change in permit allocation (private/public ratio)
  - Change in season dates

## APPLICATIONS FOR CWMUs

- 7 New applications
  - 2 due to land-ownership changes or >34% increase/decrease in acreage
  - 5 brand new applications
  - One application w/DWR recommendation to deny (Blue Mountain Mulies)
- 12 CWMUs submitted renewal applications for 2016-2018
- 9 CWMUs submitted change applications requiring RAC/Board approval
- 4 CWMUs did not re-apply
- A total of 28 applications submitted for 2016

## 2016 CWMU OVERVIEW

Proposed CWMUs	
Statewide:	127
Northern	75
Northeastern	7
Central	11
Southeastern	20
Southern	14

- Over 2.26 million acres enrolled
- 96.8% private land
- 605 Private landowners participate in CWMU program

Numbers based on approval of DWR recommendations

John Ross photo

## 2016 CWMU BUCK/BULL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

	PRIVATE PERMITS	PUBLIC PERMITS
Buck Deer	1996	264
Management Buck Deer	2	1
Bull Elk	943	140
Buck Pronghorn	83	62
Bull Moose	48	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,072</b>	<b>497 (14%)</b>

## CWMU APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS BY REGION

David Whitten photo

### NORTHERN REGION NEW APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	ACRES	SPECIES	DWR REC.
George Creek	New	12,662	Deer	Approve
Rattlesnake Pass	New (New Ownership)	7,740	Deer	Approve
Riverview Ranch	New (37% acreage decrease)	33,712	Elk	Approve

### NORTHERN REGION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGES	DWR REC.
Bastian Ranch	Renewal	Changed name to Causey Spring	Approve
Cotton Thomas	Renewal	Change Operator & President – request to add elk, 3 total, 2 private 1 public	Approve
Junction Valley	Renewal	Decrease deer permits from 60 to 50	Approve
Pine Canyon	Renewal	Increased 155 acres	Approve
Rabbit Creek	Renewal	Request to increase buck pronghorn permits to 5, 3 private/2 public	Approve
Strawberry Ridge	Renewal	Change Operator & President, <b>request to elk season variance to Nov 30th</b>	Approve
Whites Valley	Renewal	Changed Operator & President, added 2959 private acres, requests to decrease deer permits from 20 to 10 – 8 private/ 2 public	Approve

### NORTHERN REGION CHANGE APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGES	DWR REC.
Deseret	Change	Request to increase deer permits by 8, increase elk permits by 6, increase moose permits in 2016 by 1 (5 total, 3/2), 2017 by 2 (6 total, 3/3), decrease pronghorn permits by 7 (74 total, 41/33)	Approve
Jacobs Creek	Change	Proposed boundary change with USFS property-division is <b>not</b> in agreement, requests increase of 10 elk permits (20 total, 18/2)	Disagree With North Boundary Change
SJ Ranch	Change	Requests an increase of 2 elk permits in 2016 (9 total, 8/1, and a decrease of 1 elk permit in 2017 (8 total, 7/1)	Approve
Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	Change	Requests an increase of 20 deer permits (150 total, 135/15), increase elk permits by 10 (100 total, 90/10), <b>requests a elk season variance to November 30th</b>	Approve
Park Valley	Change	Remove deer from CWMU, pronghorn only	Approve

### SOUTHEASTERN REGION NEW APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	ACRES	SPECIES	DWR REC.
Black Hawk	New	10,110	Deer, Elk <b>Requests elk season variance to November 30th</b>	Approve

### SOUTHEASTERN REGION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGES	DWR REC.
JB Ranch	Renewal	Changed operator, requests an increase in antlerless elk permits by 5	Approve

### SOUTHEASTERN REGION CHANGE APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGES	DWR REC.
Scofield East	Change	Added 1320 acres - requests 1 additional bull elk permit	Approve
Scofield Canyons	Change	Increased acreage 120 acres, requests 2 additional bull elk permits, does not qualify for additional permits	Disagree w/ permit increase
Summit Point	Change	Decreased acres 4,695 acres, request to decrease antlerless elk permits 10	Approve
Deer Haven	Change	Removed elk from CWMU	Approve
Spring Creek Dodge	Change	Request 1 additional bull elk permit	Approve

### SOUTHERN REGION NEW APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	ACRES	SPECIES	DWR REC.
East Zion	New	4,945	Deer	Approve

### SOUTHERN REGION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

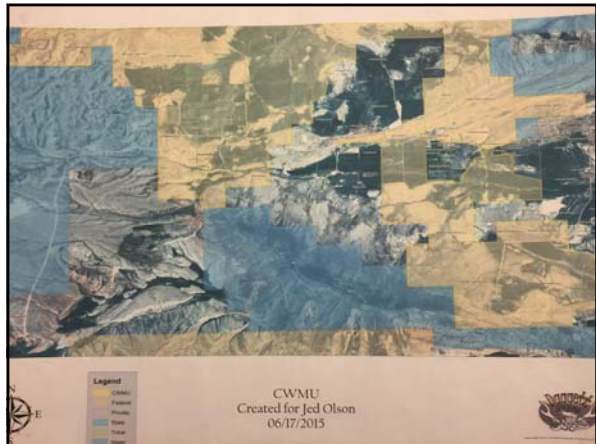
CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGE	DWR REC.
Grazing Pasture	Renewal	Changed deer season dates to 9/1-10/31, 100% private land, 1 less public deer permit – 1 additional private deer permit due to removal of public lands, requests 1 additional bull elk permit, 1 additional antlerless elk permit	Approve
Johnson Mountain Ranch	Renewal	Added 91 acres public land with 91 acres private land trade	Approve

### CENTRAL REGION RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	CHANGES	DWR REC.
Chries Creek	Renewal	No Changes	Approve
Heartland West	Renewal	President and operator change, deer hunt change to 9/1-10/31, deer permit number change from 9/1 to 8/2	Approve

### NORTHEASTERN REGION NEW APPLICATIONS

CWMU NAME	STATUS	ACRES	SPECIES	DWR REC.
Blue Mountain Mulies	New	5,914	Deer	Deny
West Willow Creek Ranch	New	22,400	Deer	Approve





## 2016 LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS



2016  
STATEWIDE  
OVERVIEW

## 2016 LANDOWNER ASSOCIATIONS

- 12 Landowner Associations (LOA) approved in 2015 for 3-years with no requested changes
- 1 split recommendation
- 1 new LOA
- 1 LOA change request
- 2 LOAs do not receive Permits for 2016



## 2015 LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION BUCK/BULL VOUCHERS TOTALS

17 Landowner Associations

113 deer permits

1 management buck permit

73 elk permits

9 pronghorn permits

Numbers based on approval of DWR recommendations

## SPLIT RECOMMENDATIONS



## 2015 LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION BUCK/BULL SPLIT RECOMMENDATIONS

LOA NAME	SPECIES	REQUESTED PERMITS	QUALIFIED PERMITS	DWR REC.	REASON
Book Cliffs	Deer	15	13	13	Reduction in acreage of LOA
Book Cliffs	Elk	9	3	6	Substantial Crop Damage on LOA properties and higher elk use on private lands

## NEW LOA APPLICATION

LOA NAME	PRIVATE ACRES	% PRIVATE ACRES IN UNIT	QUALIFIED PERMITS	RECOMMENDED PERMITS
Oak Creek	31,429	96%	6 Deer	6 Deer



## LOA CHANGE REQUEST

LOA NAME	CHANGE REQUEST	QUALIFIED PERMITS	RECOMMENDED PERMITS	REASON
Paunsaugunt Elk LOA	Increase bull elk permits from 2 to 5	5	5	Increased acreage in LOA



## R657-37 COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNITS FOR BIG GAME OR TURKEY PROPOSED RULE CHANGES



**COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARY  
UNIT**

OWNER AND HUNTING AREAS (CONTENTS OF THIS PRIVATE LANDS OWNER HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF HUNTING ON THESE AREAS) THE PRIVATE LANDS:

HUNTERS WITH A VALID CWMU PERMIT FOR THIS UNIT MAY HUNT AS THE PERMIT ALLOWS FOR:

\_\_\_\_\_ DEER \_\_\_\_\_ ELK \_\_\_\_\_ BEAR \_\_\_\_\_ PRONGHORN

If this CWMU has accessible public lands within its unit boundary, the general public may access that public land for all legal uses except for the above indicated species. This boundary is not private property and NO TRESPASSING is allowed for any purpose.

**Private  Property**

## BACKGROUND

- < half of Utah's 54.3 million acres is in private ownership
- > 60% of Utah's big game winter range exists on private land
- Began in 1990 as an experimental Posted Hunting Unit (PHU) program
- 1993 it was made a permanent part of Utah Code
- 1997 the program name was changed to the Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit Program
- 2.26 million acres enrolled in the program with 605 landowners

## CWMU ADVISORY COMMITTEE



- Two sportsman representatives
- Two CWMU representatives
- One agricultural representative
- One at-large public representative
- One elected official
- One RAC chairperson or RAC member
- Wildlife Section Chief - chair

- Responsibility of the CWMU Advisory Committee to review the operation of the CWMU program

## PROPOSED CHANGES

- Change the hunt dates for buck pronghorn and antlerless hunt dates for deer, elk, and doe pronghorn
  - Buck pronghorn may begin the beginning of the statewide archery buck season with archery equip. (usually the Sat. nearest August 15)
  - Antlerless deer, elk, and doe pronghorn hunts may begin Aug. 1
- Change the minimum required days for antlerless hunts from two to three days
- Change the variance application process from a 1-year waiting period to Feb. 1 prior to the Aug. 1 general application deadline
- Change that public lands may not be used to meet minimum acreage requirements to establish a new CWMU

## PROPOSED ADDITIONS

- Added the definition of CWMU President and specifies as a member of the landowner association
  - President has ultimate responsibility over the CWMU
  - Cannot apply for their own permits through the public drawing
- Added an annual training requirement for all CWMU operators
- Added that donated unused vouchers can be used in the reciprocal hunting program

## ADDITIONS CONT.

- Sunday hunt days may not be included in minimum hunt days except by mutual agreement
- Permit allocations that may deviate from the standards, Board may approve a modified distribution scheme of private/public permits
- Added to the duties of the CWMU Advisory Committee to review acreage totals that fall below minimum requirements for evaluation of continued participation in the program
- Division must be notified of any changes of operator, membership, or acreage within 30 days of change

## CLARIFICATIONS

- Any decreases in acreage > 33% over the 3-year COR term, must apply as a new CWMU
- Any changes > 33% in landownership over the 3-year COR term, must apply as a new CWMU
- Any decreases in acreage that cause the CWMU to fall below the minimum acreage requirements, must go before the Advisory Committee for review
- CWMUs currently under minimum acreages will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee if there are any reductions in acreage

## OTHER ITEMS

- Added language to clarify that landowner association members and operators, and their spouses and dependent children, cannot apply for their own CWMU permits in the public drawing
- Clerical changes throughout the rule
- Proposed non-trophy youth buck deer hunt not recommended at this time

