

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

May 2, 2024 Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/QvH1qoTk1Qk>

## AGENDA

**Thursday, May 2, 2024, 9:00 A.M.**

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**  
– Randy Dearth, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**  
– Randy Dearth, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**  
– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman
4. DWR Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
– J. Shirley, DWR Director
5. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
7. Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
8. Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
10. Shed Antler Gathering and Big Game Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
11. 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
12. Other Business **CONTINGENT**  
– Randy Dearth, Chairman

## Wildlife Board Motions

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

### Fall 2023 – Target Date – Special Use Permits on WMA’s – Guides and Outfitters – Non-consumptive user fee

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into Guides and Outfitters obtaining special use permits on WMA’s and to look at implementing a fee for non-consumptive users. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Blair Stringham  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: August 25, 2022

### Fall 2024 – Target Date – Increase Trapping Fee for Non-residents

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into a trap fee increase for non-residents for 2024. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Karl Hirst  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: January 3, 2023

### Fall 2024 – Target Date – CWMU Recommendations Committee

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to form a CWMU Recommendations Committee to review the rule and bring recommendations back to the board in June 2024. The committee should consider if the rule is equitable for both the public and the private parties. It needs to be an incentive based program to encourage CWMU’s to fulfill antlerless harvest. Tools need to be in place to encourage CWMU operators and the division to obtain necessary harvest for unit objectives. The rule needs to address non-contiguous lands and set requirements for trade lands – land traded needs to be comparable to be fair to both the public and the operator. Trade lands need to be posted with a common sign such that the public can easily recognize it as such. If public tags increase or decrease then CWMU tags should do the same. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Chad Wilson  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

### Winter 2025 – Target Date – Use of Barrels for Bear Baiting Stations

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to work with the federal land agencies to address any concerns that they may have with the use of barrels on the landscape. This is to be placed on the Action Log and addressed during the January 2025 board meeting.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: January 4, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – “Destination Water bodies” List

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to create a list of “Destination water bodies” throughout the state. This list will determine which fishery management plans are presented statewide and which may be presented to only the local RAC. This is to be placed on the action log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson

Assigned to: Randy Oplinger

Action: Under study

Placed on Action Log: September 21, 2023

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 4, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025  
The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/b09caB9kv58>

Tuesday, January 4, 2024 - 9:00 am

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda  | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Randy Dearth, Chairman   |                          |
| 2. Approval of Minutes   | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Randy Dearth Chairman  |                          |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>        |
| – Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman                                      |                          |
| 4. DWR Update  | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b>     |
| – Justin Shannon, DWR Deputy Director                              |                          |
| 5. Inedible By-Products Rule Amendment                             | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b>     |
| – Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief                               |                          |
| 6. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations                           | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b>     |
| – Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator           |                          |
| 7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33       | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator                             |                          |
| 8. Elk Management Unit Plans                                       | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator                              |                          |
| 9. Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions                 | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief                               |                          |
| 10. Removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited Species List | <b>ACTION</b>            |
| – Craig Walker, Assistant Chief of Fisheries                       |                          |
| <del>11. License and Permit Privileges Suspension Appeal</del>     | <del><b>ACTION</b></del> |
| <del>– Ryan Holt, Case No. 2021-000330</del>                       |                          |
| <del>– Kyle Maynard, Assistant Attorney General</del> WITHDRAWN    |                          |
| 12. Other Business   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>        |
| – Randy Dearth, Chairman   |                          |
| • Amend 2024 June and December Meeting Dates                       |                          |

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

**Wildlife Board Motions**

Fall 2023 – Target Date – Special Use Permits on WMA’s – Guides and Outfitters – Non-consumptive user fee

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into Guides and Outfitters obtaining special use permits on WMA’s and to look at implementing a fee for non-consumptive users. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Blair Stringham  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: August 25, 2022

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Increased Trapping Fee for Non-residents

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into a trap fee increase for non-residents for 2024. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Karl Hirst  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: January- 3, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Mandatory Tooth Reporting

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into mandatory tooth reporting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Karl Hirst  
Assigned to: Dax Mangus  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – CWMU Recommendations Committee

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to form a CWMU Recommendations Committee to review the rule and bring recommendations back to the board in June 2024. The committee should consider if the rule is equitable for both the public and the private parties. It needs to be an incentive based program to encourage CWMU’s to fulfill antlerless harvest. Tools need to be in place to encourage CWMU operators and the division to obtain necessary harvest for unit objectives. The rule needs to address non-contiguous lands and set requirements for trade lands – land traded needs to be comparable to be fair to both the public and the operator. Trade lands need to be posted with a common sign such that the public can easily recognize it as such. If public tags increase or decrease then CWMU tags should do the same. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Chad Wilson  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2025 – Target Date – “Destination Water bodies” List

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to create a list of “Destination water bodies” throughout the state. This list will determine which fishery management plans are presented statewide and which may be presented to only the local RAC. This is to be placed on the action log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Randy Oplinger  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: September 21, 2023

Winter 2025 – Target Date – Use of Barrels for Bear Baiting Stations

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to work with the federal land agencies to address any concerns that they may have with the use of barrels on the landscape. This is to be placed on the action log and addressed during the January, 2025 board meeting.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: January 4, 2024

DRAFT

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
January 4, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025  
**Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

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

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

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023 Wildlife Board Meeting minutes as submitted.**

3) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-53 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to work with the federal land agencies to address any concerns that they may have with the use of barrels on the landscape. This is to be placed on the Action Log and addressed during the January, 2025 board meeting.**

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule amendments as presented.**

4) Elk Management Unit Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Elk Management Unit Plans as presented by the Division.**

5) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rule amendments as presented, with the request to the Division to add the number of poaching reported reward permits issued statewide to the Annual Report.**

- 6) Removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited Species List (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson, and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented.**

- 7) Other Business (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to move the June, 2024 Wildlife Board meeting to June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the December, 2024 Wildlife Board meeting to December 12<sup>th</sup> to accommodate WAFWA scheduling.**



**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
January 4, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025

Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Randy Dearth – Chairman	Karl Hirst
Gary Nielson – Vice-Chairman	Paula Richmond
Justin Shannon – Deputy Director	Bryce Thurgood
	Kent Johnson
	Bret Selman

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Brock McMillan  
Southern – Austin Atkinson  
Southeastern – Chris Wood  
Northeastern – Grizz Oleen  
Northern – Brad Buchanan

Mike Canning  
Kevin Bunnell  
Jim Christensen  
Jason Vernon  
Wyatt Bubak  
Dax Mangus  
Kenny Johnson  
Chris Wood

Mike Christensen  
Seth Magers  
Staci Coons  
Paige Wiren  
Kyle Maynard  
Darren Debloois  
Riley Peck  
Daniel Sallee

Rusty Robinson  
Chad Wilson  
Sydney Lamb  
Kim Hersey  
Kent Hersey  
Dustin Mitchell  
Dallon Christensen  
Covy Jones

Teresa Griffin

**Public Present**

Angie Wonnecott  
Sierra Nelson

Kevin Norman  
Cory Huntsman

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
January 4, 2024, DNR Auditorium  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025  
<https://youtube.com/live/b09caB9kv58>

- 00:00:20** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, noted the date of record, reminded participants of the live broadcast, and asked the Board members to introduce themselves. Vice Chairman Nielson was traveling en route to the meeting. RAC chairs then introduced themselves. Southeastern regional supervisor Chris Wood filled in for Eric Luke. Grizz Oleen attended online
- 00:02:03** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Brett Selman and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**
- 00:02:28** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Bret Selman seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the November 28, 2023 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.**
- 00:03:04** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**  
There was no old business or action log items to review at this time.
- 00:03:15** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**  
Deputy Director Justin Shannon gave updates on Division personnel changes and on all the Division sections: Administrative Services, Aquatic, Conservation Outreach, Habitat, Law Enforcement and Wildlife.
- 00:14:20** **5) Inedible By-products Rule Amendment Update (Informational)**  
Law Enforcement Chief Wyatt Bubak gave a presentation titled, "Inedible Byproducts."
- 00:17:12** **Board/RAC Questions**  
There were no questions from the Board.
- 00:17:17** **6) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations (Informational)**  
Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson gave a presentation titled, "Shed Antler Committee Update."
- 00:24:46** **Board/RAC Questions**  
The Board asked how law enforcement would enforce season dates for out-of-state shed gathering individuals when season dates for neighboring states will be different; asked what, in the rule, might specifically address individuals who gather

sheds for personal use, and what specific legislation has been talked about that the Division would like the Legislature to address.

The Board asked if the committee considered regional rather than statewide shed gathering closures should the need for winter wildlife emergency feeding arise.

The Board expressed concern about exclusionary retaliation among western states regarding wildlife management rules.

The Board also suggested that private property rights have been overlooked, that private property owners should be exempt from the rule restrictions, and suggested involving the Utah Farm Bureau in determining rules regarding antlers shed on private property.

The Board advocated for aligning Utah's shed gathering rules with neighboring states' rules.

**00:36:25**     **7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)**

Darren Debloois gave an overview of the presentation that was posted on the Division website.

**00:37:43**     **Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked what checks and balances are in place for biologists who may have bias regarding permit numbers. The Board asked about the use of barrels to harvest bear, and suggested that Utah allow the use of barrels.

**00:40:31**     **Public Input**

Deputy Director Shannon summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**00:41:14**     **RAC Summaries**

All RACs passed the Division's recommendations with various dissent and stipulations.

**00:43:41**     **Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was needed at this time.

**00:47:32**     **RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**00:48:29**     **Board Discussion**

The Board asked if it would be appropriate for the Board to make a motion to ask federal agencies why they have different rules for Utah regarding the use of barrels to hunt bear, or if a motion was needed.

The Board asked the Northern Region RAC chair about their council's discussion regarding a second, control tag.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to work with the federal land agencies to address any concerns that they may have with the use of barrels on the landscape. This is to be placed on the Action Log and addressed during the January, 2025 board meeting.**

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule amendments as presented.**

**00:55:17 8) Elk Management Unit Plans (Action)**

Wildlife Coordinator Daniel Sallee gave a brief overview of the proposal.

**00:55:56 Board/RAC Questions**

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

**00:56:17 Public Input**

Deputy Director Shannon summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**00:57:44 RAC Summaries**

All the RACs except the Southeastern RAC passed the Division's recommendations unanimously. The Southeastern RAC pass the recommendations with 10-1 vote.

**00:59:47 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time, but there were no comments from the public in attendance. No clarification was given at this time.

**00:59:54 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**01:00:12 Board Discussion/Questions**

The Board commended the Division for working diligently with sportsmen and those in agriculture.

Chairman Dearth emphasized that the Board should always be cognizant of AUMs, or, the amount of forage required by one animal unit (AU) for one month.

The Board also commented on the importance of communication among the agricultural community, sportspersons organizations and the Division.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Elk Management Unit Plans as presented by the Division.**

**01:03:38 9) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (Action)**

Law Enforcement Chief Wyatt Bubak gave key highlights to the presentation that was posted on the Division website.

**01:06:14 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked about potential legal repercussions that individuals reporting violations might face, a possibility that was discussed in some of the RAC meetings.

Assistant Attorney General Kyle Maynard addressed the concern.

The Board asked if the Division anticipated a substantial increase in reported poaching reward permits.

**01:11:58 Public Input**

Deputy Director Shannon summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**01:12:32 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time, but there were no comments from the public in attendance. No clarification was given at this time.

**01:12:51 RAC Summaries**

All RACs voted to accept the rule revisions, with the Central RAC passing an additional motion requesting annual reporting, and the Northern RAC passing an additional motion intended to address litigation protection. Chairman Dearth reiterated the motion summaries.

**01:14:59 Board Discussion**

The Board suggested that the Division talk with legislators about providing protections for people who report poaching and poachers.

The Board asked if the Division could report on how many poaching permits are issued annually, and the Division stated that those numbers could be added to the annual report.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rule amendments as presented, with the request to the Division to add the number of poaching reported reward permits issued statewide to the Annual Report.**

**01:23:18 BREAK**

**01:30:41 10) Removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited Species List (Action)**

Assistant Chief of Fisheries Craig Walker gave a presentation titled, "Removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited List."

**01:33:33 Board Questions/Discussion**

The Board asked if populations in Utah waters of the fish species in question would be problematic.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented.**

**01:35:20 9) Other Business (Action)**

Deputy Director Justin Shannon presented amended Wildlife Board meeting dates. The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to move the June, 2024 Wildlife Board meeting to June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the December, 2024 Wildlife Board meeting to December 12<sup>th</sup> to accommodate WAFWA scheduling.**

**01:37:46 Meeting Adjourned**

DRAFT

**Wildlife Board Work Session**  
**Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington UT**

April 9, 2024

<https://youtube.com/live/kBtBQoWrgUI>

revised 4-1-2024

1. Legislative Update – Riley Peck, DWR Legislative Liaison and Public Policy Analyst

2. Mule Deer

- Statewide Update - Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator
  - Deer population update
  - Trends in general season deer permit numbers vs buck-to-doe ratios and population trends, social difficulties in managing to the objectives in our existing, approved management plans
  - Statewide Management Plan revision status
- California Condors and Lead - Danielle Finlayson, Conservation Biologist Southern Region
  - Update on the status of California condors and how hunters may be able to help
- Statewide deer survival study update - Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator
  - Body condition and survival information for study units
  - Habitat use and body condition
  - Importance of summer range
- Deer Survival Study lessons learned and management applications - Dr. Randy Larson and Dr. Brock McMillan from Brigham Young University
  - Buck to doe ratios and herd productivity
  - Neonate (newborn) fawn study update
  - Predation thresholds
  - List of things we know now that we probably wouldn't have believed 10 years ago
- Mule deer perspectives from DWR regions - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief and Eric Edgley, Habitat Section Chief
  - Regional mule deer tour summary and priority projects moving forward

3. Disease Update - Dr. Virginia Stout, UDWR Veterinarian ● Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- Overview, summary of locations and prevalence, carcass movement rules (in state/ out of state), etc.
- Other disease issues
- Concerns related to the movement of deer (alive)

4. Law Enforcement Updates – Chad Bettridge, Captain

- Residency Fraud
- K9 Investigation
- DNR LE consolidation

5. Licensing – Lindy Varney, Licensing Coordinator
  - Licensing update on 2023 draw odds, applicant demographics, bonus and preference points, etc.
6. Statewide Elk Plan Update - Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator
  - General season bull elk permit overview
  - Limited entry elk ages and harvest success rates under the new plan
7. Cougar Update – Darren Deblois, Mammals Program Coordinator
  - Provide an update on cougar harvest

DRAFT



**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**

Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way  
Farmington, Utah 84025  
Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Randy Dearth – Chair	Bryce Thurgood	Bret Selman did not attend
Gary Nielson – Vice-Chair	Paula Richmond	
J. Shirley – Exec Secretary	Kent Johnson	

**Division Personnel**

Ashley Green	Blair Stringham	Mike Christensen
Justin Shannon	Covy Jones	Jim Christensen
Riley Peck	Jason Vernon	Kent Hersey
Chris Wood	Dax Mangus	Dallon Christensen
Kevin Bunnell	Sydney Lamb	Miles Hanberg
Lindy Varney	Rusty Robinson	Ginger Stout
Chris Wood	Teresa Griffin	Darren DeBloois
Paige Wiren	Chad Bettridge	Jesse Hamaker
Eric Edgley	Frank Bouchard	Devri Tanner
Danielle Finlayson	Adam Kavalunas	Russ Norvell
Staci Coons	Kenny Johnson	Makeda Hanson

**BYU Research Professors**

Dr. Brock McMillan	Dr. Randy Larsen
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**Public Present**

Kevin Albrecht	Troy Justensen
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**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**  
April 9, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way  
Farmington, Utah 84025  
<https://youtube.com/live/kBtBQoWrgUI>

**00:18:88** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, and noted that this was a working meeting where the Board would not be voting on anything.

**00:19:11 1) Legislative Session Update**

Legislative Liaison Riley Peck gave a presentation on what took place with regards to wildlife and hunting-related bills during the 2024 legislative session, and how the bills that passed will impact wildlife and management.

**00:34:52 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked about the change to the hunter orange requirements; asked how much discussion there was about recreational public land use, and asked how communicating to the non-hunting public WMA users that they might have to wear hunter orange should the division director make that authoritative decision.

Director Shirley thanked all who supported and contributed to the of the 2024 Legislative Session: liaison Riley Peck, wildlife management and conservation partners, and division staff.

The Board also asked how much discussion there was on the portion of the bill that expects people who move into residential developments that are built in the human-wildlife interface to be expected to tolerate wildlife.

**00:41:59 2) Mule Deer**

- **Statewide update**

Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled “Statewide Deer Update” which gave a general overview on population trends, fawn production trends, 2023-2024 survival prognosis, Utah deer population vis-à-vis general buck hunters afield, buck-to-doe ratio trends, statewide deer plan revision, and the statewide deer plan timeline.

### **00:55:05 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked if it would help to sell to the public some of the permit number increases in the southern part of the state if it were communicated to the public the differences between deer conditions in northern Utah versus southern Utah.

The Board suggested that the Division separate deer condition data out by region, as well as made suggestions about how to communicate to the public the Division’s framework for making biologically-driven and socially-driven management decisions.

The Board also shared first-hand stories about having accompanied Division biologists in the field, and noted how dedicated Division staff are.

### **01:09:29 • California Condors and Lead**

Conservation Biologist Danielle Finlayson gave a presentation titled, “Lead and Wildlife” which showed the negative effects of lead on wildlife, and what action can be taken to prevent the negative impacts.

### **01:25:52 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked about data from California.

- ### **01:26:46**
- **Statewide deer survival study update**
  - **Deer survival study lessons learned and management applications**

Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey, Dr. Brock McMillan and Dr. Randy Larsen presented the most recent detailed and comprehensive data and statistics collected from statewide deer collars and captures, to include but not limited to adult and fawn survival and nutrition, population regulation, mortality, habitat condition, pregnancy rates, antler growth and the impact of weather.

The Board asked when Range Creek restoration started, and how long it takes for a habitat treatment to attract and be beneficial to deer. Also, how effective have scrub burns been in promoting aspen growth. Other talk about aspen.

The Board asked about deer on Boulder Mountain, about predator management as applied to specific hunting units, and about mortality statistics of deer killed by mountain lions.

The Board also asked about the number of people hunting coyotes in the spring versus the winter. The Board further asked about deer sexual segregation, or, males and females occupying separate areas of the landscape, and how that might affect buck-to-doe ratios.

**03:13:35 Lunch break**

**03:55:53** Chairman Dearth welcomed people back to the meeting. Continuation of presentation by Kent Hersey, Dr. Brock McMillan and Dr. Randy Larsen.

**04:20:25 Board Questions & Discussion**

Chairman Dearth noted that Bryce Thurgood had to leave the meeting, but that Bryce would return before the meeting was over. Chairman Dearth also thanked all those who participated in the studies that yielded the data presented in this meeting.

**04:21:35** • **Mule deer perspectives from the DWR regions**

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones and Habitat Section Chief Eric Edgley gave a presentation titled, “Mule Deer

Project.”

#### **04:56:18 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked if there is a plan for an agricultural project on the Lower San Rafael Wildlife Management Area, and about livestock grazing on state owned land.

The Board commented on the Division’s proposed online resource to share information and data on statewide mule deer.

#### **05:03:15 3) Disease Updates**

State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Ginger Stout gave a presentation titled, “Chronic Wasting Disease in Utah.”

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
  - Overview, summary of locations, and prevalence, carcass movement rules (in-state/out-of-state)
- Other disease issues
- Concerns related to the movement of deer (alive)

#### **05:40:56 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked if CWD could possibly be transmitted to humans.

The Board voiced support for more hunting in CWD-infected areas, and Chairman Dearth shared a personal anecdote about having witnessed an elk with scabies disease.

The Board asked about potential spread of disease from domestic animals to Utah bighorn sheep.

#### **05:44:59 4) Law Enforcement Updates**

Captain Chad Bettridge gave a presentation titled, “Law Enforcement Update.”

- **DNR LE consolidation**
- **K9 investigation**

- **Residency fraud**

**05:50:15 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked if the Division would lose conservation officers as a result of the Department of Natural Resources law enforcement unification, and also the unification might affect the overall quality of enforcement.

Asked if it is an anticipated concern that some Natural Resources law enforcement officers might not know enough about wildlife management code.

Asked about K9s and unification.

**05:53:32** Continuation of LE Update presentation.

**06:01:53 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked how the DNR LE unification might affect the K9 program.

**06:02:43** Continuation of LE Update presentation.

**06:06:57 5) Licensing**

Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney gave a presentation titled, "Deer Data," as well as shared information on lifetime license holders, youth opportunities, and the mentor program.

**06:15:25 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked what percentage of applicants were successful in obtaining a general season rifle permit.

**06:15:43** Continuation of Licensing presentation.

**06:20:18 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked if the Division sees any crowding in the field issues related to lifetime license holders.

**06:21:31** Continuation of Licensing presentation.

**06:27:51 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked for clarification regarding mentor hunt harvest.

**06:30:35 6) Statewide Elk Plan Update**

Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled, "Utah Statewide Elk Plan, 2023 Implementation Overview."

- General season bull elk permit overview
- Limited entry elk ages and harvest success rates under the new plan

**06:45:24 Board Questions & Discussion**

There were no questions from the Board.

Lindy Varney answered the previous question about rifle hunt success rate.

**06:46:37 7) Cougar Update**

Mammals Program Coordinator Darren Deblois gave a presentation titled, "Cougar Overview."

- Cougar harvest update

**06:53:29 Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked about the hound hunting figures in the presentation, and about cougar trapping regulations.

**06:57:00** Meeting adjourned.

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

**1) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

- NR MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented with the exception of an increase of 75% of full Division proposed potential permit increases for Southern Region units.  
VOTE: Passed 5-3
- CR MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase tags in the Southern Region as identified in the “calculator column”.  
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
- SR MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s Buck Deer recommendations as presented.  
VOTE: Passed 6-4
- SER MOTION: To accept the Division proposal as presented with the adjustment that we accept the yellow (higher) recommended numbers in the Southern Region units.  
VOTE: Passed 6-2
- NER MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s Buck Deer recommendations as presented.  
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

**2) Once –in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

- NR, SER, NER  
MOTION: I move we accept Once-In-A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.  
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
- CR MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the north slope unit moose permits to 25 instead of 22.  
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
- SR MOTION: I move we accept Once-In-A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.  
VOTE: Passed 9-1



**3) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

NR, SR, SER, NER

MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the number of permits on the Diamond Mtn. unit to 100.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

**4) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

NR, CR, SER, NER

MOTION: I move we accept Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR MOTION: I move we accept Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Passed 8-2

**5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

NR, SER, NER

MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to ask the division to create a recommendation that will result in public shooters to not harvest a cow moose with a calf that is visible.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.

VOTE: Passed 9-1

**6) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments (Action)**

NR, NER

MOTION: I move we accept Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR MOTION: I move we accept Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Passed 8-2

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations with the exception of requiring the check in of management and cactus bucks (Section 4).

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendation as presented with a recommendation that DWR consider making use of thermal imaging to locate Big Game a year-round restriction.

VOTE: Passed 9-1

SER MOTION: To accept the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations as proposed.

VOTE: Passed 6-2

MOTION: To approve the remainder of this agenda as presented with the exception of the night vision restrictions, which will be discussed and voted on next.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

MOTION: To not change the wording regarding night vision, so that it remains “unlawful to use” instead of “unlawful to possess” as proposed by the Division.

VOTE: 4-4 Chairman Luke breaks the tie and votes against the motion. Motion fails.

MOTION: to accept the Divison’s night vision recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Passed 6-2

**7) 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

NR, SR, NER

MOTION: I move we accept 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to set a minimum antlerless permit number that matches or exceeds the number of bull elk permits on a CWMU that has elk.

VOTE: Passed 7-2

SER MOTION: I move we accept 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Passed 7-1

**RAC AGENDA**

**April 10, 2024**

The meeting will stream live at [https://youtube.com/live/ TbRy6NuQgoY](https://youtube.com/live/TbRy6NuQgoY)

- 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
- 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **ACTION**  
- RAC Chair
- 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- RAC Chair
- 4. Regional Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- DWR Regional Supervisor
- 5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
- 6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
- 7. Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
- 8. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
- 9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
- 10. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
- 11. 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

**Regional Presentations Only**

CWMU 4, 5, & 6 report NR Only **INFORMATIONAL**  
-Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

**Meeting Locations**

**NR RAC** – April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden  
<https://youtube.com/live/TbRy6NuQgoY>

**SER RAC** – April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/yj5QSDR3xGE>

**CR RAC** – Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Room  
1115. N. Main Street, Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/62P2C5vuu7k>

**NER RAC**- April 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources NER Office  
318 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/vJ8VcvNAsMs>

**SR RAC** – April 16<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Cedar Breaks Rm. Sharwin Smith Center  
Southern Utah University  
<https://youtube.com/live/qDdeX9-GtFo>

**Board Meeting**- May 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay  
<https://youtube.com/live/QvH1goTk1Qk>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**

2) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed. For: 5 Against: 3. Randy Hutchison - Wants Southern Region to decide. James Carlson - Conservative Approach. Robert Dale - Wants Conservative Approach.

**MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented with the exception of an increase of 75% of full Division proposed potential permit increases for Southern Region units.**

3) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Once-In-A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

4) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

5) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

7) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments as presented.**

8) 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**  
April 10, 2024  
Attendance

**RAC Members**

Brad Buchanan - Chair  
Blair Stringham - Exec Sec

Jaimi Butler  
James Carlson  
Robert Dale  
Randy Hutchison

Steve Sorensen  
Anthony VonNiederhausern  
Jessica Wade  
Ross Worthington

**Board Member**  
Paula Richmond

**RAC Excused**

Marshall Alford - Anthony VonNiederhausern (F.S.) sitting in for Marshall.  
Ryan Brown - Co-chair  
David Earl  
Junior Goring  
Darren Parry  
Casey Snider  
Nikki Wayment

**Division Personnel**

Jodie Anderson  
Jim Christensen  
Chad Wilson  
Sam Robertson  
Daniel Sallee  
Xaela Walden  
Dax Mangus  
Rusty Robinson  
Nick Madsen  
David Smedley

Mike Christensen  
David Beveridge  
Krystal Tucker  
Lindy Varney

## Regional Advisory Council Meeting

April 10, 2024

**00:00:01** 1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.

**00:04:42** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**

**00:05:32** 3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan**  
Link on website to view.

**00:07:24** 4) **Regional Update - Blair Stringham (Informational)**  
Blair Stringham updated the RAC on regional activities.

**00:14:42** 5) **Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**  
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:19:50** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Deer numbers unit by unit. Fawn survival. Being conservative in the southern part of the state. Trends going down on buck-to-doe ratio on the Box Elder Unit. Hunt success rate on the Box Elder Unit.

## **Public Questions**

None

### **00:33:04 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

#### **Public Comment**

Ty Buttars - Concerned with the Box Elder Unit having 35 CWMUs and trying to manage the buck-to-doe ratio. Not many places for the public hunter to go.

Greg Garner - Additional 600 tags means 600 more people in the field. Need to start managing the number of people on the mountain. Wants to see the numbers spread out over the hunts. Need more Dedicated Hunter permits on the units.

Hunting Stallings - Supports DWR proposal.

Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – We support the recommendations.

### **00:38:45 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Social issues. Hoping for changes with mule deer management. Would like to see tags increased; the public needs more opportunity. Things are getting better with public education. Some concern about high buck-to-doe ratio objectives on units in southern Utah and hunters losing opportunity to hunt. Would like to see more permits offered in the Southern Region. Some members of the public support cutting the number of permits. Mule Deer Committee. Getting better with buck-to-doe ratio models.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed. For: 5 Against: 3. Randy Hutchison - Wants the Southern RAC to decide the number of permits for their region. James Carlson – Be conservative when determining the number of permits. Robert Dale – Also wants a conservative approach.



**MOTION: I move that we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented with the exception of an increase of 75% of full Division proposed potential permit increases for Southern Region units.**

**01:00:44 6) Once-in-a Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:01:34 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Mountain goat population decline on the Uinta Mountains. Negotiations for access across tribal lands. Mountain goat decline on Willard Peak. Transplanting goats to Willard Peak from the Tushar Mountains. Integration of transplanted goats with resident goats. Bighorn sheep on Antelope Island.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:07:43 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife - Supports the Division's proposal.

**01:09:21 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Appreciate that bison permits have been reduced. Questions about how bison permits are issued for Antelope Island.

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Once-In-A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

**01:12:57 7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:15:29 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Elk calf survival.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:17:56 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

Hunter Stalling - Supports the DWR proposal.

Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife - Supports the Division's proposal with the exception of increasing permits on the San Juan Unit. Would like to see permit numbers on the unit stay the same.

**01:20:18 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Number of permits being allocated to a specific season. Managing more for trophy class

bulls on the San Juan Unit. Shifting into new Elk Management Plan.

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

**01:28:20 8) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:30:11 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Update on Parker Mountain herd. Objective for the Parker Mountains. Pronghorn numbers improving on the Box Elder Puddle Valley Unit. Pronghorn fawn production on the Cache Unit. Have the same concerns Wyoming has about mycoplasma.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:36:57 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife - Support the Division's recommendation.

**01:38:27 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

**01:39:15 9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:41:13 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

East Canyon/Davis/North Salt Lake antlerless deer hunt to address CWD and urban interface. Number of positive CWD cases. Hunts targeting problem deer in urban areas. Addressing hunts for diseased animals. Hunt boundary location. Disease testing frequency. Number of bucks and the number of does that test positive for CWD. Relocation of does. Methods to target doe harvest.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:53:32 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**01:54:33 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Managing a cow moose that has a calf. Issues with harvesting cow moose with a calf.

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 as presented.**

**01:58:27 10) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**02:04:01 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Emergency closure. Surrounding states and licensing fees for shed hunting.  
Making shed antler regulations enforceable.

**Public Questions**

None

**02:07:17 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**02:08:30 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

People poaching on the WMAs and being able to take their hunting rights.

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments as presented.**

**02:10:39 CWMU Units 4, 5 & 6. Informational report was presented and discussed.**

**02:21:51 11) 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Chad Wilson summarized the 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit presentation for the RAC.

**02:22:03 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

None

**Public Questions**

None

**02:22:16 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**02:22:53 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.**

**02:23:38 Motion to Adjourn: Robert Dale**

## **RAC AGENDA – April 2024**

1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **ACTION**  
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- RAC Chair
4. Regional Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- DWR Regional Supervisor
5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
7. Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
8. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 **ACTION**  
- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator
10. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator
11. 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

### **Regional Presentations Only**

CWMU Units 4,5, & 6 report – NR Only **INFORMATIONAL**  
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife  
Coordinator

**Central Region RAC Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

April 11, 2024  
Springville, Utah

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.**

2) Approval of November 9, 2023 RAC Meeting Minutes

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.**

3) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024

The following motion was made by Brock McMillin. Seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase tags in the Southern Region as identified in the "calculator column".**

4) 2024 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendation

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Brock McMillan and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the north slope unit moose permits to 25 instead of 22.**

5) 2024 Elk Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto, seconded by Braden Sheppard and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the number of permits on the Diamond Mtn unit to 100.**

6) 2024 Antelope Permit Recommendations



The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented.**

- 7) 2024 Antlerless Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to ask the division to create a recommendation that will result in public shooters to not harvest a cow moose with a calf that is visible.**

- 8) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto, seconded by Eric Reid and passed 8-2. Josh Lenart and Brooke Shakespeare opposed.

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations for shed antler gathering as presented.**

The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations with the exception of requiring the check in of management and cactus bucks (Section 4).**

- 9) CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Joshua Lenart and passed 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Kellen Hyer and Braden Sheppard).

**MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to set a minimum antlerless permit number that matches or exceeds the number of bull elk permits on a CWMU that has elk.**

## Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance  
April 11, 2024  
Springville, Utah

### RAC Members

#### Attending

Brock McMillan - online  
Eric Reid  
Joshua Lenart – online  
Mike Christensen - Chair  
John Ziegler  
Bryce Castagnetto  
Kellen Hyer  
Scott Jensen  
Joshua Greenhalgh  
Jim Shuler  
Brooke Shakespeare  
Braden Sheppard

#### Absent

Steve Lund  
Amos Murphy - excused

### Wildlife Board

Paula Richmond -- online  
Gary Nielson  
Kent Johnson – online

### DWR Personnel

Jason Vernon  
Matt Briggs  
Dax Mangus  
Jason Robinson  
Lindy Varney  
Austin Ferris  
Aaron Sisson  
Rusty Robinson

Chad Wilson  
Scott Root  
Mike Christensen  
Wes Alexander  
Preston Michelson  
Sydney Lamb  
Covy Jones  
Heber Shepherd

Total members of the public in attendance: 17

# Central Region RAC Meeting

April 11, 2024

Springville, Utah

<https://youtube.com/live/62P2C5vuu7k>

<b>06:00:06</b>	RAC Vice Chair Mike Christensen called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel were present on the broadcast. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations and public comments will be taken during the meeting.
<b>06:04:41</b>	<b>1) Approval of Agenda (Action)</b> The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously. <b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</b>
<b>06:04:41</b>	<b>2) Approval of Minutes (Action)</b> The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously. <b>MOTION: To approve the December 5th, 2024 Central Region RAC minutes as transcribed.</b>
<b>06:05:00</b>	<b>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</b> RAC Vice Chair Mike Christensen updated the RAC.
<b>06:08:22</b>	<b>4) DWR Update (Informational)</b> Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.
<b>06:17:16</b>	<b>5) Deer Permit Recommendations</b> A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>
<b>06:19:12</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> RAC members asked questions about the management deer check in process, what would happen to the population objective if the tag number increased, recommendations and thoughts on the public feedback, and the accuracy of the population model the DWR uses. There were also questions regarding the process of harvest surveys, what model for population estimates is used, what bucks are included in the counts, and issues with populations and the counts done. <b>Public Questions</b> Marlin Hall- Why is there a \$50 late fee for harvest surveys that aren't put in on time?

<b>06:41:27</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> Garritt Slatcoff- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers-Supports hunter opportunity and staying in the objectives. Concerns about tag cuts, want to increase opportunities. Would like to mention that buck deer doesn't affect herd populations as long as it hits min buck to doe ratio. Support recommendations and increases. Ben Lowder- Utah archery association- Utah is good at cutting permits when need arises. Would like some opportunities given back to hunters. The difference between calculator recs and dwr recs is a lot of tags. Support with exception of going with the calculator model in southern areas. Ridley Griggs - Self- Echo what Ben said. Adds up over time. Don't take away hunter opportunities. Support as many tags as the model allows on southern units. Kevin Norman - SFW- Along the same lines as Ben. Follow the calc model. Support the recommendations as presented. Buck to doe ratio was 8-10 in the best days of hunting. Need to grow deer pops, kill more bucks.
<b>06:50:54</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC members discussed the division management approach, increasing hunter opportunity and tags, and the population model as it was presented.
<b>07:01:28</b>	<b>Deer Permit Recommendations</b> <b>MOTIONS</b> The following motion was made by Brock McMullin, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously. <b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase tags in the Southern Region as identified in the "calculator column".</b>
<b>07:02:39</b>	<b>6) 2024 Once-in-a-lifetime Permit Recommendations</b> A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>
<b>07:04:41</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> RAC members asked about the Book Cliffs 2023 Muzzleloader hunts that were extended, the Wasatch moose tags being cut and the herd health, and the Henry Mountain bison unit. Questions were also brought up about access on the Book Cliffs roadless unit, moose populations, hunt success rates in Utah, and the North Slope unit tag numbers. <b>Public Questions</b> None

<b>07:18:09</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> Kevin Norman- SFW- Support recommendations as presented. Recognize division for hard work and success for sheep hunts.  Ben Lowder- Utah Archery Association- support recommendations as presented.
<b>07:20:34</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC members discussed the moose on the Wasatch unit, tag numbers on the North Slope unit, nonresident hunters, and moose age.
<b>07:28:50</b>	<b>2024 Once-in-a-lifetime Permit Recommendations</b> <b>MOTIONS</b>  The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Brock McMillan . Passed unanimously.  <b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the north slope unit moose permits to 25 instead of 22.</b>
<b>07:29:23</b>	<b>7) 2024 Elk Permit Recommendations</b> A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>
<b>07:31:28</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> RAC members asked questions about nonresident permit numbers, the number of tags sold with the new unlimited season, success rates of over the counter tags, hunter satisfaction rates on over the counter tag, age classes on the Diamond Mountain unit and the Wasatch unit, and what hunts get tooth packets. <b>Public Questions</b> None
<b>07:39:27</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> Kevin Norman- SFW- Support recs except for the San Juan unit. The unit was never at the max age objective. Give it another year to watch age objectives.  Ben Lowder- Utah Archery Association- Support recommendations as presented.
<b>07:42:40</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC members discussed the way the DWR has been managing moose permits

	and their appreciation, tooth packets, tag numbers on the San Juan unit, adding tag numbers back later if they are cut now, and giving hunters more opportunities.
<b>07:52:12</b>	<b>2024 Elk Permit Recommendations</b> <b>MOTIONS</b>  The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto, seconded by Braden Sheppard and passed unanimously.  <b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to increase the number of permits on the Diamond Mtn unit to 100.</b>
<b>07:59:33</b>	<b>7) 2024 Antelope Permit Recommendations</b>  A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>
<b>08:01:34</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b>  RAC members asked questions about the age objective and lifespan of pronghorn. Questions were also asked about the conditions of Parker Mountain.  <b>Public Questions</b>  None
<b>08:03:59</b>	<b>Public Comments</b>  Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b>  Kevin Norman- SFW- Support the recommendations as presented.  Ben Lowder- Utah Archery Association- Support recommendations as presented.
<b>08:05:34</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b>  None
<b>08:05:50</b>	<b>2024 Antelope Permit Recommendations</b> <b>MOTIONS</b>  The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.  <b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented.</b>
<b>08:06:15</b>	<b>7) 2024 Antlerless Permit Recommendations</b>  A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>

<p><b>08:08:14</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>RAC members asked questions about creating a law to prevent the shooting of a cow moose if she has a calf nearby, implementing that law for other species, reproductive rates for deer and elk, and age classification.</p> <p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>08:13:10</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Ben Lowder- Utah Archery Association- Support recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Garritt Slatcoff- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers- Support recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Eliza Christensen- Self- Would like to see a law passed to prevent the killing of a cow moose with a calf by her side. Not herd animals, more susceptible to winter kill. Law is implemented in other places, and should be implemented in Utah.</p>
<p><b>08:16:50</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <p>RAC members discussed the enforcement of preventing a cow moose to be killed if a calf moose is by her side, survival rates of moose, law enforcement involvement if a law was passed to prevent the taking of a cow moose if a calf is on her side, ethical hunting, and if the Timp and Wasatch springs areas are overharvested with other areas are underharvested.</p>
<p><b>08:34:29</b></p>	<p><b>2024 Antlerless Permit Recommendations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTIONS</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to ask the division to create a recommendation that will result in public shooters to not harvest a cow moose with a yearling calf that is visible.</b></p>
<p><b>08:38:03</b></p>	<p><b>7) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments</b></p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a></p>
<p><b>08:42:52</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>RAC members asked questions about elk movement during antler collection, night vision devices, how the rule would apply to landowners, how to enforce management deer and cactus bucks rule changes, resident dates and nonresident dates for shed</p>

	<p>hunting, and if nonresidents are causing any issues.</p> <p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>08:57:29</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Garritt Slatcoff - backcountry hunters and anglers- Support the recs and presented. Based on data, the recs will minimize impact on wildlife.</p> <p>Kevin Norman- SFW- Support the recs and presented.</p>
<p><b>09:00:34</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <p>RAC members discussed the process of checking in management deer and cactus bucks, forest service discussion on damage to landscape due to shed hunting, and the committee's standpoints and decisions made. They also discussed potential issues with changing the cactus and management bucks check in, as well as the season dates for shed hunting.</p>
<p><b>09:10:19</b></p>	<p><b>2024 Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTIONS</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto, seconded by Eric Reid and passed 8 in favor and 2 opposed. (Josh Lenart and Brooke Shakespeare opposed)</p> <p><b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations for shed antler gathering as presented.</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations with the exception of requiring the check in of management and cactus bucks (Section 4).</b></p>
<p><b>09:14:50</b></p>	<p><b>7) CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations</b></p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a></p>
<p><b>09:15:40</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>RAC members asked questions about CWMU requirements to do change permits, the possibility of increasing antlerless elk tags, the ratio of bulls to cows, population objective, new CWMUs, public access to resources, and the population objective of cow elk and bull elk.</p> <p><b>Public Questions</b></p>



	None
<b>09:23:09</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> None
<b>09:24:06</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> RAC members discussed the need for public access to the wildlife and resources, increasing hunter opportunity, how CWMU operators may react to the rule changes, and the need for a 50/50 split on elk tags in the least. Also mentioned that if there are no antlerless elk permits, the public does not benefit and how many cows CWMUs harvest.
<b>09:34:17</b>	<b>2024 CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations</b> <b>MOTIONS</b> The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Joshua Lenart and passed 7 in favor and 2 opposed (Kellen Hyer and Braden Sheppard). <b>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception to set a minimum antlerless permit number that matches or exceeds the number of bull elk permits on a CWMU that has elk.</b>
<b>09:38:14</b>	<b>Meeting adjourned.</b>

## **Southern Regional RAC Meeting**

**April 16, 2025 6:00 PM, Cedar City, UT**

### **RAC Members**

#### **Attending**

Austin Atkinson  
Bart Battista (on-line)  
Rachel Bolus  
Chuck Chamberlain  
Brooklyn Cox (BLM)  
Mike Grant  
Russell Gardner  
Verland King (on-line)  
Riley Roberts  
Chad Utley (on-line)  
Bryant Johnson (on-line)

#### **Absent**

Tammy Pearson  
Travis Duran

### **Wildlife Board**

Paula Richmond  
Gary Nielson  
Kent Johnson

### **DWR Personnel**

Kevin Bunnell  
Sherry Gilge  
Teresa Griffin  
Selena Yardley (on-line)  
Rusty Robinson  
Mike Wardle  
Paul Washburn  
Chad Wilson  
Director J. Shirley  
Brandon White  
Cody Evans (on-line)

Adam Kavalunas  
Denise Gilgen  
Jason Nicholes  
Dax Mangus  
Vance Mumford  
Danielle Finlayson  
Tyrell Orme  
Mike Christensen  
Justin Shannon  
Kyle Christensen

**Public invited to join online: <https://youtube.com/live/qDdeX9-GtFo>**

## Southern Region RAC Meeting

April 16, 2024

Cedar City, Utah

<https://youtube.com/live/qDdeX9-GtFo>

<p><b>06:00:14</b></p>	<p><b>1) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson</b> called the meeting to order. Called the roll of RAC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Explained the RAC process and noted there will be no live presentations during the meeting. People attending in person will be provided the opportunity to make comments and ask questions.</li><li>· Encouraged those who want to express their opinions at tonight's meeting to submit a comment card.</li><li>· Reminded everyone to be respectful of others, especially of those who have ideas and opinions that may differ from their own.</li></ul> <p>Refer to people by name instead of descriptors of their physical characteristics, demeanor, or gender.</p>
<p><b>06:05:26</b></p>	<p><b>2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes</b> (Action)</p> <p><b>RAC Chair Austin Atkinson</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by <b>Chuck Chamberlain</b>, seconded by <b>Mike Grant</b>.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we approved the Agenda and Minutes as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Passed unanimously.</b></p>

**06:06:13**

### **3) Wildlife Board Meeting**

(Informational)

#### **RAC Chair Austin Atkinson**

· Reviewed the motions from the Wildlife Board Meeting held on January 04, 2024.

Motion to ask the Division to work with federal land agencies to address any concerns they may have with the use of barrels on the landscape during bear baiting season. This was placed on the action log to be addressed during next year's January Board meeting. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion to accept the Black Bear Management plan revisions and Rule Amendments are presented. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion to pass the Elk Management Unit plans as presented. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve the rule amendments as presented for the poaching reported reward permits rule revisions with the request to the division to add the number of the poaching reported reward permits issued to an annual report so that we could review those. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve Divisions recommendations in regard to the removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited Species list. **Passed unanimously.**

Motion to move the June 2024 Wildlife Board Meeting to June 13, 2024 and the December 2024 meeting to December 12, 2024 to accommodate the Wildlife schedule. **Passed unanimously.**

06:08:55

#### 4) DWR Update

(Informational)

- **Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor** updated the RAC on all regional activities.

- **Wildlife Section: Sage Grouse** Lek counts. Numbers are mostly increasing across the Region. Increases from South to North. Same for **Prairie Dogs**. As the population increases, we become closer to getting them delisted; however, it also means the more conflict we have.

- **Shrub Planting on Pahvant Upland WMA - 5,000 plants.**

- Continuing to collect collars from **Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, and BigHorn Sheep** to make sure we can identify causes of death. Good news is that we've had higher survival rate, fewer collars to retrieve

- Biologists have been checking **Bear** dens, looking at reproduction in our **Bear** population. Good summer last year, we've had good survival and good production on **Bear cubs**.

- Successful Snow Goose Festival in Delta encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to go and experience the thousands of geese there.

- Duck banding at Clear Lake - lower numbers than normal, working to rectify this.

- **Aquatics Section:** Panguitch Lake Dam damaged. The dam has been shored up. Fishing is closed until the determination of damage can be assessed. DWR will continue to coordinate with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office to reopen fishing to the public. Significant impact on fisheries is not expected.

- **Fishery Management Plans for Washington County Reservoirs** (Sand Hollow, Quail Creek, Gunlock). Plan is expected to be presented to RAC in September.

- **Piute and Otter Creek Reservoirs.** Plan is expected to be presented to RAC in September.

- **Spring Netting Surveys.** A year of water has done wonders for Southern Utah bodies of water. This is a busy time for our Aquatics Department. In general, the results of the surveys have been really good.
- **WCFO** is busy working, primarily with the Virgin River and fish populations, Native and Non-Native Fish projects. Woundfin were released into the Virgin River above LaVerkin Hot Springs.
- Habitat work in Washington County. Riparian restoration, implemented the Translocation Management Plan (Desert Tortoise). Annual monitoring completed in West Desert (March-April) for **Spotted Frog**.
- **Habitat Section:** WRI Habitat proposals, Habitat Council and ECP Meetings. Working to resolve some trespassing issues on a few WMA's. Several restoration projects going on in the Region.
- Hiring Partner Habitat Biologist with USFS. (New position, South end of Boulder Mountain).
- **Stan Gurley** left DWR and accepted another employment opportunity.
- **Outreach Section:** Upcoming events: Blue Ribbon Warm Water Fishing Seminar, Beginner Fly Tying Clinic, NASP Western Regionals, Desert Tortoise Viewing, Gunlock Reservoir Warm Water Fishing/How to prepare and cook fish, Dedicated Hunter program has gone on-line - lots of new service projects.
- **Law Enforcement Section: Shane Kitchen** moved to Sergeant position with AIS. New officers in West Washington, East Iron and Kane County. Current vacancies in Salina, Beaver and Garfield districts. We have an Officer who is currently attending P.O.S.T, he will be going to Kane County in September 2024.

<b>06:19:23</b>	<b>RAC Questions: None.</b>
<b>06:20:08</b>	<b>5) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024</b> (Action) <b>- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator</b>  Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. Clarified some of the numbers listed in the presentations. Reminded everyone that the Biologists make their recommendations to manage to the parameters set in our Statewide Management Plan and Statewide Unit Plan. We have objectives, postseason Buck to Doe ratio that we manage too. Our Biologists look at their classification data, survival data, habitat conditions, body condition of animals, weather patterns and conditions. All of these things are taken into account when the Biologists make their recommendations to manage towards the objectives in the plans. A lot of data is used in making these recommendations.

06:22:38

### RAC Questions:

- **Russell Gardner:** Regarding Buck to Doe ratios - what does it take to change those? What is the process? (Inaudible, microphone issues)· We would need to move that number in order for the Biologists to manage for that?

- If we increase the Buck to Doe ratio, we would see more Bucks on the landscape, the age class would increase on the big Bucks. Most hunters, the older generation that I visit with would like to see bigger Bucks, but want to increase hunter opportunities especially for youth.

- **Dax Mangus:** The Buck to Doe ratio that we manage too currently in the Statewide plan, we have those identified. On General Season units, we have two different categories we manage too. We manage to a postseason ratio of either 15-17 Bucks per 100 Does or 18-20 Bucks per 100 Does. Limited Entry units are managed to have a higher ratio. If that's something people are interested in changing, that could be done in the Statewide Plan, which is currently being revised. There will probably be a discussion held as to whether those numbers are appropriate or if we need different objectives. At present, we have 15-17 and 18-20 Buck to Doe ratios. All of the General Season units in the Southern region are 18-20 Bucks to Doe.

- **Mike Grant:** Russell, your comment or comments was how to up the classification of the deer to make them an older age or age the deer? I couldn't hear your question very well.

- **Dax Mangus:** That is the trade-off, Russell. The General Season units are managed for lower Buck to Doe ratios. Success rates are typically lower. Hunters typically see fewer Bucks, older age class Bucks whereas Limited Entry units manage to have higher Buck to Doe ratios. Harder to draw, higher success rates. For example, fewer permits on the Paunsaugunt, Vernon, Henry Mountains, Oak Creek, harder to draw, but when hunters draw they typically experience higher success rates and harvest older bucks.

- **Mike Grant:** Mortality rate on one to two-year old Deer. We are leaving that opportunity to die. If you look at the mortality rate with yearlings and two-year old deer, we're not going out there and harvesting some of those off the landscape. Where is that percentage?

- Numbers are based on volunteer or random harvest reporting? Because we don't have mandatory harvest reporting on General Season? Moving forward with mandatory harvest reporting we should have a better idea of what is being harvested.



06:57:21

**Public Questions:**

- **Bob Ott:** Aside from Buck to Doe ratios, on these units where we are suggesting that we increase the number of hunting permits, how does that compare to the total unit objective? Are we above objective on all these units? Or below objective on these units? What's the total of Wildlife Game for Deer on those units compared to our objective?.
- **Dax Mangus:** The terminology we use is confusing. Talk a lot about objectives in our plan. We have a population objective, and then we have Buck to Doe ratio where we are managing the proportion of the population that are Bucks. Two separate things.
- Deer numbers are still down overall in Southern Utah from where they were in 2015, 2016, and 2017. We had some good growth for several years, extended drought drove numbers down, especially in Southern Utah. In the Southern Region in the two and a half years, populations have started to increase. We are exceeding the Buck to Doe ratio objectives, we are recommending hunting more Bucks because you can still grow overall population numbers with proportionately fewer Bucks if we manage to the Buck to Doe ratios in the plan. We still have that reproductive component of the population on the landscape. Does getting bred, having the fawns grow your Deer herd. We are under the population objective on most of the units in the Southern Region, but are at or exceeding the Buck to Doe ratio on a lot of units.
- **Curtis Barney:** I'm a little confused on the young mortality rate between hunting Bucks and them dying. Believes there are half Doe, half Bucks that are year. If we hunt and kill most of the yearling Bucks, which is what we are doing right now. So, if they're dying or going to die and we go out and hunt them or they're going to die. But yet the Buck to Doe ratio has gone up and up every year. The other half of the Deer that are female are not getting shot by hunters, but our Deer population is not going up, up, up. Can you explain that?
- **Dax Mangus:** We manage to the Buck to Doe ratios in the plan. Some of the harvested Bucks will be yearlings. Mortality rates on yearling Bucks, supported by collar data, shows that it's pretty high. That survival rate is not necessarily what drives our recommendation. Recommendations are based on observed Buck to Doe ratios after the season - factoring in production and survival, looking at what's coming next Fall. The piece of

data that yearling Buck survival is pretty low is something that's part of the discussions looking at ways to offer more opportunity for youth or are there ways to harvest for Bucks before they die. You are correct, we don't harvest many Does off these units. When we do harvest Does, it's a limited amount, usually in areas where we may have some conflict issues. Optimistic on how things are looking in Southern Utah. We want to utilize the resource while we have it, you can't save it forever. Mortality rate does not include hunter harvest.

- **Austin Atkinson:** There is a portion of the model that accounts for how old the deer is that is harvested or we think this is how many yearlings are being harvested, or a guesstimate? Correct?
- **Dax Mangus:** We do take that into consideration. When we look at the previous year's fawn to Doe ratio and fawn survival, we have a good estimate of how many of those fawns we're going to recruit into the population the following year. Realizing that half of those will likely be Does, half will be Bucks. That's not part of an observed Buck to Doe ratio, but that does go into the model. We aren't assigning differential survival values based on age class.
- **Branson Jackson:** How are going to address hunter crowding if you increase permit number? Surprised someone hasn't been shot already. If permits are added on the rifle hunt on Utah Hill and the Sands for example?
- **Dax Mangus:** We are sensitive to that. The number of permits we are recommending is not close to what we issued four to five years ago. There are some things we can do to address crowding if we need to or hear this is becoming a problem. We can look at changing splits or seasons moving forward. We haven't had mass problems or accidents.
- **Riley Roberts:** On each of our units there is a biological carrying capacity. What is the method the division uses to determine the overall population objective versus the carrying capacity for each unit? This will change every year. Once the State plan is in place, we haven't had the ability to manipulate that as much. What goes into setting that overall objective versus what the habitat can actually provide for? ·
- **Dax Mangus:** Every five years we have a range trend crew that travels the State and analyzes our winter range and looks at habitat conditions. We also assess the body condition of the deer on the deer

captures. Healthy, fat Deer indicate a good habitat. Learning about habitat from the habitat itself and from looking at the Deer's as well.

- Deer on the Pine Valley are never as fat as Deer on the Cache, but that's okay because winters are milder in Southern Utah.

- It's a science and an art. Carrying capacity can vary a lot from year to year. (Extended drought, monsoons, etc. – Mother Nature). Objectives are set based on habitat, Deer and historic numbers.

- **Riley Roberts:** A lot of what we do is social and a lot of what we do is biological. What do you say to those individuals that may be on the fence, those who may not trust the Division?

- **Dax Mangus:** For a long time the Division doubled down and said let's get better data, maybe that will help, spent a lot of money on collaring studies, neonate studies of fawn survival, adult survival with great partners. We spent a lot of money with great partners on habitat restoration. We still encounter a lot of skepticism.

- Those who work for the Division really do care. I would challenge those folks to come out with us. Go out with your local Biologist to pick up collars, go out on captures, they'll get to see that we do care about wildlife and want to do the right thing. We want to learn and do better. Please come and spend time with our folks. We want to serve Sportsmen and hunters. We've received a lot of feedback, especially from Southern Utah hunters.

- **Steve Carroll:** Agrees with a couple of the comments already made, especially on the Pine Valley. Doesn't make logical sense that probably the most vulnerable Bucks, yearling Bucks with 50% mortality and yet you want to try to harvest them because we feel like we'll leave them on the landscape if we don't? Those are the Bucks that later become the older age class Buck population.

- Overcrowding is an issue, especially on the Zion unit with private land. We're going to struggle if you increase permits.

- We have not turned the corner yet, yet we want to increase those permits at that percentage? We just came out of an extreme drought. What is the mortality rate on those Northern units when we had the heavy snow? Did we decrease those permits by 50-60 percent based on mortality?

- We didn't cut the tags proportionately up North because of the snow, but yet we're increasing permits in the South. We need to let the animals recover to have more animals on the landscape and have older age class animals.

- Does believe the Division's employee's hearts are in the right place. Understands the Division manages to the Statewide plan. Thanked everyone for their efforts.

- **Dax Mangus:** Mortality rates depends on the unit. Some of the Northern Utah was intense. The Cache was 50-60 % mortality and we decreased those tags 50-60 % based on the mortality. We did not decrease the permits 50-60 %.

- **Kevin Norman:** Did your cut in the North on the Cache unit land the Buck to Doe ratio where it should have been inside the plan?

- **Dax Mangus:** It's a little above. Last year the Cache was managed for 15-17 and it came in at 19 this last year. Tricky to separate what's happening with the population and what's happening with Bucks. They are related, but how we are hunting Bucks isn't what's driving our populations up or down or how our herds are recovering.

07:22:20

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Complimented the public questions and comments, really great questions. Online Comments:**

- Strongly agree: 10 (20%)
- Somewhat agree: 3 (6%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (2%)
- Somewhat disagree: 8 (16%)
- Strongly disagree: 28 (56%)
- Total votes: 50
- Weighted average:  $[(28 * 1) + (8 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (3 * 4) + (10 * 5)] / 50 = 2.18$

· **Austin Atkinson:** Read the following comment from a public member who did not want to comment in public. “We need to increase our Buck to Doe ratios and stop Deer mortalities from roads and Coyotes. Please do not increase permits in Southern Utah.”

· **Bob Ott:** Appreciates the opportunity to comment on this topic. Biggest concern is that having come out of the drought years and we’ve got a couple of years of additional recruitment with our Deer, it doesn’t seem like we should increase the pressure on our Deer herds until we can grow our herds back. For every yearling Buck that is taken by a hunter, that means the predators have to take Does or something to eat. Would be difficult to grow our herds back if we overkill our younger Deer. Would like to see our Wildlife herds in Southern Utah return, become vibrant, higher Deer population. Significant sentiment against the Division with just about everyone he’s visited with about this issue. Fall meeting there were two legislative representatives there. Why? Because they’re hearing all is not well. ·

· **Kevin Norman:** Representing Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Had our Committee Fulfillment meeting. Talked one end of spectrum to the other. Why didn’t we go with the higher yellow column of numbers? In the South, it is too much of an increase on the Pine Valley unit. Ultimately,

SFW supports the Division's recommendations. Dax nailed it in his last comments. Wished more people were present tonight. Riding along with DWR, there's a lot that they go through, hearts are in the right spot. Commends their work and appreciates the Division.

- **Curtis Barney:** Represents the Mule Deer on the Beaver Mountain. Been a hunter on the Beaver unit for 50 years. Concerned about the number of permits being suggested in Southern Utah, especially the Beaver unit. Remember two things: Number one: Dax said we are just turning the corner. Number two: When the question was asked why are there so many Bucks per Does on the Henry Mountains? The answer was we have to follow the Statewide Mule Deer Plan. Beaver unit is managed for a target number of 14,400 Deer, didn't meet that goal We are are 9,400 right now, which is 65% of where we could be, not a lot on the Beaver unit. Thousands of acres of Bitter Brush and water on the Beaver. There's a buffet sitting there with no customers to come and partake. We'll take any darn customer we can get - Buck, Doe, Fawn, Rabbit. The Deer are not there. Can drive from Panguitch to Richfield and not see Deer. Doesn't need to worry about hitting Deer.

- Statewide Plan states the Beaver **will** be managed to maintain a three-year average of 18-20 Buck to Doe ratio. Look at your charts, we are at 17.5, we didn't make 18. We are not at the objective, we are the lowest in the State. When you go out to do a job, you get it done. In 2020, we were at 14, in 2021 we were at 15, in 2023 we made it to 17.5. DWR recommended 300 more permits last year. This group didn't recommend them. We aren't even to the number we should be and it says we will be managed to those numbers. I go out postseason and look at the Deer, I can honestly tell you that on the Beaver, there was maybe one Buck that I would start to look at to harvest. How can you count 20 Bucks in a count of 400? We are held to the State Management Plan on the Henry's we should be held to the plan on the Beaver unit. Recommends not adding any more permits as we've just turned the corner.

-

07:33:05

## RAC Discussion

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Encouraged people to spend time with the Biologists, feels it's important. Biologists are willing to talk to you and explain rationale. A couple of concerns with smaller units. Overall, supports proposals, doesn't necessarily support moving to the "yellow" column. Believes the Mt. Dutton and the Thousand Lake units are struggling, they should remain low. There's a ton of food on the Dutton, but not a lot of Deer there.
- **Bart Battista:** Appreciates hearing comments and questions from the public. Concerned about large increases of permits on some units. We could turn another corner with Mother Nature and it could be worse next year. Doesn't make sense for those large increases.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Felt like the Southern Region was almost singled out, negatively, in getting the "yellow" column, understands this was not the intention. Previous RAC meetings in Northern and Central Regions shed light on the Southern Region and there were a lot of opinions. Realizes we are united as a State. A lot of voices, especially in the Southern Region, that are going to scare the Division if you will not follow the biology. Commends the Biologists and believes in our Biologists. Tell us what the computer spits out, tell us your numbers, and let us deal with the consequences rather than meet in the middle. .
- Premium Limited Entry and Limited Entry permits are a joke, so far out of reach. There are so few permits given out. Now that we don't have General Season permits in our pockets, we forget about Premium Limited Entry. Wasting deer, we don't adjust permit numbers, we just talk about General Season Deer at these meetings. Doesn't want the Division to lose any credibility by meeting in the middle. We have the data, let's stand behind it. Not envious of those on the Mule Deer Committee, hopes it will be implemented by 2025.
- **Riley Roberts:** Appreciates the Division and the numerous public comments he received. Quantity versus Quality. There are Sportsman that want quality, bigger better animals and successful hunt. Some individuals have lost interest because they, nor their children, can draw a permit. Talk of an increase in permit numbers is like putting a cat in a burlap sack.

· Torn, his personal feelings are somewhere in between. He has been able to hunt every year, but has children who haven't had the same opportunity. He wants them to have the opportunity to hunt and he wants to be able to continue hunt and harvest bigger animals. Appreciates the comments and commends the Biologist and they are working within the parameters that are set. Doesn't always agree.

· Some units have always been social. Concerned about some of our Southern units, we are not afraid to stand up and say how we feel. Concerned the Deer herds are not where they should be. Not that he doesn't trust the data, but he has boots on the ground and is not seeing the numbers. Has Martin Luther King dream that if we can get this deer herd, Statewide, to whatever the Carrying Capacity is, then you are going to have both the quantity and quality. Only way to see us being able to find that balance. Talked about if we increase the overall objectives then we can get the deer herds up to where they need to be. Let's get more Deer out there, not sure how to go about that. That many more Deer mean more lion hunts, etc. That should be the long-term goal. Concerned about the individual units, some of our counterparts have mentioned those as well.

· **Mike Grant:** Thanked the Division, he spent time with them this past Fall and Winter during classifications. Some of the survival rates, 80-90% in what we are seeing in our data. In talking to our constituents and the Sportsmen and everybody out there, there's a bit of viable data there and maybe we don't inform ourselves enough. Maybe the public isn't informing themselves as well as they could. There are only 15 people here trying to inform themselves – just as he is, the rest are from the Division. Following suit with some of these recommendations and with the yellow column where we are at and where we should be at. We need to formulate more information for the public as we stand behind that.

· Public pressure that we have on our deer never lets up. We never back off the pressure in the field. Trying to have Fawns and Calves. There are more side by sides and 4-wheelers than ever, creating constant pressure.



· Suggests backing off a little bit on these permit numbers. Understands we need to manage to the the plan. As a child, he was hiking on foot, not driving vehicles with stereo blasting. Let's reign it back for a year to see what that will do. We've had a mild winter, Spring rains, maybe we'll have a drought, but the deer are fat. Maybe we'll turn the corner a little bit more next year.

· **Verland King:** As a Rancher and Veterinarian, one thing people are overlooking is the fact that we don't need a lot of Bucks to breed those Does. A lot depends more on the rain, body condition that they're in when they're breeding. Doesn't see a problem with hunting a few more Bucks. Helps with habitat, there aren't as many animals eating. All depending on the drought and rain. With predator control, I think we're in a good place there, especially if there are fewer people turning in Coyotes. Found that there in his area, the Coyotes are down, not sure about the Cougars. Hard to increase quantity if you're trying to raise big Bucks. Some of those big Bucks will be smart enough to get past the hunters and then they'll be there to breed the majority of the Does. They can whip off the younger Bucks. You're still going to have those younger Bucks and they can cover the normal amount of Does. Not worried about increasing the number of Bucks. Each of us have a pet area that we really like that we talk about and hunt. Maybe we should make a motion for every unit. Feels killing a few more Bucks isn't going to make a difference as far as decreasing the amount of deer on those units. That's how it works whether it's sheep, cattle or wildlife.

· **Brooklyn Cox:** A lot of Habitat work that has been occurring and talked about the importance of that work. A lot of data collection that goes into these projects and what goes into habitat improvement. We are always learning and changing. Can speak to agency contention, grateful for the public that is attending this meeting to bring forward this discussion. A lot of restoration projects are coming and good data will come from that.

· **Riley Roberts:** Not familiar with some of the units that were discussed. He'd to hear from those on the RAC that are familiar with those units.

· **Bryant Johnson:** There are some units that we received a lot of feedback on, he has hunted three of them that he heard a lot about. The Deer are doing a little better, but they are smaller. Some want to hunt small Deer, some want to hunt better Deer. Three of the units I was on last year, the Pine Valley, Zion and Monroe. Won't speak on the Monroe, believe the

increase on that unit is not that significant. But the Beaver, Pine Valley, Zion, Boulder, and the Pahvant are getting a huge increase just as they're starting to get a few more mature Deer. I don't think we need to increase permits on those units. Saw a lot of small Bucks when he hunted the Zion unit. Hunted two different hunts on the Pine Valley with his daughter. Saw a lot of little Bucks, one young four-point. Room on these units for more deer according to the habitant. Why not let some of these younger Bucks go further in their lives before we hunt them. Wouldn't like to see permits on these units increased.

**07:54:10**

**MOTIONS:**

The following motion was made by **Chuck Chamberlain**, seconded by **Chad Utley**.

**MOTION:** I move that we accept the Division's 2024 Buck Deer Permit recommendations as recommended.

**Passed 6-4. Riley Roberts, Mike Grant, Bart Battista and Bryant Johnson opposed.**

**07:59:55**

**6) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024**  
(Action)

**- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator**

Mineral Mountains for the first time this year (Two Permits recommended).

Mountain Goats: Decrease in permits in high Uintah's due to harsh winter, 25-30% decrease in population.

Permit decreases for almost all Bison hunts. Henry Mountains - trying to get back to objective. Running low due to drought. Book Cliffs, primarily with the roadless portion of that unit, we've had some issues there where we've hunted them pretty aggressively. Seems the bison are catching on, low harvest success. Reevaluating season structures - meantime, reducing permits.

Presented his recommendations and answered questions.

08:02:15

**RAC Questions:**

· **Austin Atkinson:** We made a motion a couple of years ago, passed unanimously. We asked that anytime a once in a lifetime species hunt was offered we asked for there to be at least two permits issued to residents to help with point creep. Now seeing multiple hunts for sheep that don't have that. Was that considered?

· There are two goat hunts and one desert sheep.

· **Rusty Robinson:** Willard Peak, we had a pretty big decline in that population there and we don't want to take that hunt completely off the books and make it go away but we do want to let the population recover especially when there is a potential to harvest a female in that hunter's choice hunt. San Juan is the same, low in sheep.

· **Verland King:** On the Book Cliffs, are there livestock out there too? One place on the Book Cliffs you aren't hunting at all, how are you going to manage the population?

· **Dax Mangus:** There is no livestock grazing currently on the Little Creek, the roadless portion of Book Cliffs. The rest of the Book Cliffs is covered with Federal Grazing alignments.

· **Rusty Robinson:** We are still hunting the roadless portion of the Book Cliffs, those hunts are still open. We have just recommended a decrease in permits to reduce some hunter pressure. We did have a cow muzzleloader hunt last year that not one hunter harvested a Bison nor did they see a cow bison on the entire hunt. We issued an extension to allow them to hunt this year and committed to not add more permits on top of that hunt.

· **Austin Atkinson:** If this Book Cliffs hunt is as difficult as it's setting up to be, are we allowing any provisions? We are communicating so we don't have to do another extension?

· **Rusty Robinson:** We have added information into the Hunt Planner for anyone who looks up those hunts. Also, added a disclaimer that the

trailhead is going to be inaccessible with the cancellation of that tribal agreement.

- **Austin Atkinson:** Last year we asked that the Expo permits numbers be shown on those permit recommendations, it is still a separate document and these numbers we approve today include the 200 Expo permits that are already taken out, correct?

- **Rusty Robinson:** As you know that is still part of the public draw but moving forward that will be forthcoming.

**08:08:19**

**Public Questions: None**

08:08:24

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**

- Strongly agree: 6 (40%)
- Somewhat agree: 4 (27%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 5 (33%)
- Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)
- Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)
- Total votes: 15
- Weighted average:  $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (5 * 3) + (4 * 4) + (6 * 5)] / 15 = 4.07$

- **Kevin Norman:** Representing SFW. Supports the Division's recommendations as presented.

08:09:37

**RAC Discussion :**

- **Verland King:** Concerned about cutting the permits by half on the Henry Mountains. We've had grass come back, there is a lot of that country that hasn't recovered yet. We are always missing Buffalo when we count from the air. Then we have to adjust it and hunt more. I think it is too aggressive.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Cutting the permits on the Book Cliffs, Little Creek South is more in regard to population?
  - In contrast, Henry Mountains is to increase numbers back to the objective number?
  - How often does a count happen? Will we know next year?
- **Rusty Robinson:** Little Creek is more that we've been applying a lot of pressure and we're pushing bison out of that unit.
  - Yes, the Henry Mountains plan calls for 325, we have been running it at about 290. This is an effort to bring it closer to what the plan calls for.
  - We fly it every year, with this unit plan it is written in that if we fly it this summer and it's going to be over we can issue additional permits.
- **Verland King:** Wasn't able to make it to the Committee meeting this year. Everytime we meet we pressure the Division to use infrared cameras for counts because we miss a lot when we count. Has that gone anywhere?
- **Rusty Robinson:** Open to trying new things, definitely look at that moving forward.

<p><b>08:14:44</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Riley Roberts.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Passed 9-1. Verland King opposed. Concerned about the Buffalo on the Henry Mountains, hopes the Book Cliffs do not experience the same problems as the Henry Mountains.</b></p>
<p><b>08:23:28</b></p>	<p><b>7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024</b> (Action)</p> <p>- <b>Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator</b></p> <p>Presented his recommendations and answered questions.</p>
<p><b>08:24:00</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Late Archery Bull Elk permits. Something new with the Statewide Plan. It appeared the harvest was very low, which was to be expected with a December Archery hunt. Were some of the Biologists cautious to increase permits? My fear is that we become stagnate with some of these hunts and stay at status quo. Have the Biologists had a chance to increase those? Or do they want multiple years of data? Or did we take the age off the Bulls and include it anywhere? Or is not included?</li> <li>· Can you help me understand, the Beaver East unit for example, we substantially increased the permits again last year, under the new plan, to try to drive that age objective down and the age objective jumped even higher, correct? To over nine years old on the average?</li> <li>· Looking at this quantum computer that does your permit calculations, when looking at Elk - in contrast to Deer. Deer we can project that we’re</li> </ul>



going to end up here in the objective. With Elk it is more reactive? We can only look back? If Mike Wardle recommends so many more Beaver Elk permits, it's strictly a guess on where we're going to fall with regard to age objectives. Is that fair to say?

- **Dax Mangus:** As part of the new Statewide Plan the 2023 hunts were the first year under the new Statewide Elk Plan we initially implemented I think five permits per unit or it was a little higher on the Manti and Wasatch for the December Archery hunt. Success rate came back at 16% of the permits were filled, 17% success rate - some of the hunters turned their permits back in. First year - some Biologists were willing to go a little deeper and some were hesitant and wanted to look to see if we have unusual weather conditions, etc. Wanted to look at a couple of years before they got much more aggressive. Those ages are not factored in on our average for the Limited Entry permit recommendations.

Yes, this is one of the things we suspected would happen and what drove some of the changes to the age objectives we made in the Statewide plan. Some of these units we have probably a surplus on some of these older Bulls that maybe aren't as big. Some of the data we looked at ages versus Boone and Crockett scores (Antler size versus age). Most Bull Elk have realized about 90% of their potential antler size by the age of 6 ½ - 7 ½ years. That's part of why we lowered the age objectives on some units. We feel we could still offer opportunities at a great Bull without having to manage for 8 ½ year old Bulls. We had a Bull harvested this year on the Boulder unit that was aged at the lab at 19 years old. Believes this is the oldest Bull we've had harvested in Utah. It scored about 310, so sometimes those older Bulls aren't necessarily the biggest Bulls, hunters may be passing on them before when we were more restrictive on permits. When we offer more permits in units that are tougher, hunters may be less selective.

- Yes, with Deer we have a lot of data, a lot of collared Does and Fawns. We can be a bit more proactive with recommendations. With Elk it's more reactive recommendations, looking at ages and trends, etc. We make adjustments annually based on what the data says. Quite different from how we manage General Season Deer. We use a projection tool, a calculator, plugging in a lot of data. With Elk, it's looking at ages from harvested Bulls and then making adjustments based on what the data says.

**08:29:32**

**Public Questions: None.**

08:29:33

## Public Comments:

### Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments

- Strongly agree: 7 (30%)
- Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4 (17%)
- Somewhat disagree: 5 (22%)
- Strongly disagree: 7 (30%)
- Total votes: 23
- Weighted average:  $[(7 * 1) + (5 * 2) + (4 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (7 * 5)] / 23 = 2.78$

· **Gib Yardley:** From Beaver. Ninety-one years old and have been on these mountains and ranges all of his life. Believes the ranges are sacred, a great part of our Western heritage and need to be protected. Grandfather got the first (inaudible) permit on the Dixie National Forest in 1908, running up there ever since. Also Winter on the Southwest Desert. When his grandfather got permits there weren't any Elk. We are getting so many Elk now, they are eating all of the grass when it first gets out of the ground. Two or three weeks ago, at his ranch at Asay Creek, there were 30 head of Elk. They were eating all the grass. We're not taking off enough Elk to maintain a steady pace. We've got to take off more Cows. Last year and the year before, the DWR only recommended 25 head off. That doesn't even faze anything when you've got 1100 head of Elk and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of them are Cows. Summer on Red Desert, Sidney Valley and Asay Banks. We recommend 300 head be taken off those ranges, off of the Cedar Mountain. Also, Winters on the Southwest Desert, awful droughts out there. Last year, half of my range on the Southwest Desert didn't get a drop of rain. Could only turn half of the cows out and we never took them out for two months. Had to bring about half of them home, about broke them. Wants to preserve these ranges because they mean so much, wants to preserve

them for his family, my son and grandchildren. If we have a drought year we hold some cattle off for a month and bring them home early. Recommends taking 300 Elk off the Panguitch Lake unit and 200 Elk off the Southwest Desert.

- **Kevin Norman:** Representing Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. Supports the division with one exception, the increase of Elk permits on the San Juan. The reason is that if you look back at the past five years, the San Juan hasn't been at the objective, even in the old plan. The age objective for the Bull harvest has been trending down until two years ago when it ticked up, then dropped down again. Permits increased with the new plan and now we are asking for another increase. We would like to hold off another year to see how it levels out before we add a bunch more permits where it has been trending down on the age objective.

08:37:10

**RAC Discussion:**

- **Russell Gardner:** On the Elk Management Plan, why did we move to the mid-season on the Limited Entry Elk. It's during the Spike hunt and it's made it very difficult.
- **Dax Mangus:** It was a trade-off. Hunters wanted to have more opportunity, hard to draw a Limited Entry permit. This hunt is harder by design, more of a challenge. We could issue more permits because hunters would probably be less successful and less selective. A few of the hunters last year were thrilled to have drawn out a tag sooner than they would have been able to. There were Spike hunters out there, but they got it done and had a good experience. Some have reported that it was really crowded and it wasn't as enjoyable.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Likes where we are headed with this. More opportunity, more people are drawing permits, still seeing good Bulls. Many units are still above objective. We're taking more Bulls off to help Gib as well.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Good with the recommendations. With regard to Non-residents, it's made it difficult on them. He'd like all Non-residents placed in one pool instead of making them choose one weapon type. Put all permits for one unit in one pool, then if they're drawn they could choose which hunt they'd like. Then you could give away 50% of those tags like we do in the regular draw. Then if that weapon type is gone, you would have to let the person who drew turn it back. But, this would make it to where they would know when they're going to draw as a Non-resident. A lot of the weapon types never have two permits. It makes it extremely difficult for a Non-resident to know if they're going to draw a permit.
- **Austin Atkinson:** With the draw system with no end in sight, we tend to write-off the Non-residents or we write off the really hard to draw units. That's why we've brought us the Expo permit list before. If you're a number cruncher and you're trying to see which hunt you can draw, thankfully, the end of the draw is next week so you can look at the recommendations. You have to go in and subtract 200 permits from these recommendations to figure out if there's going to be a bonus permit for you or not. That's wrong. If we are going to be transparent, who the numbers which we've said we're going to. It should provide it clear. Agrees with Bryant on this.

<p><b>08:43:02</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Mike Grant.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s 2024 Elk Permit recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>08:43:50</b></p>	<p><b>8) Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2024</b> (Action)</p> <p>- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator</p> <p>Presented his recommendations and answered questions.</p>
<p><b>08:44:08</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <b>Mike Grant:</b> We chose to increase the permits on the Parker Mountains. We are a long way from our objective, why such an increase? Fail on my part, we are at objective. Did we reduce that substantially in the past 5-10 years?</li> <li>· We are using the Parker Mountains as a breedingery. Why are we going to remove them by killing them rather than put them in struggling units?</li> <li>· <b>Teresa Griffin:</b> The population 2016 was the last time we were at objective.</li> <li>· We counted 1430 antelope. We estimated we counted 85%.We are probably at 1700.</li> <li>· We have the opportunity to do both. We like to allow our hunters the opportunity to harvest. This winter we will also do our trap and move some to other areas to help struggling units.</li> </ul>

· **Bryant Johnson:** There are areas of the State that would support Antelope that don't have a hunt possibly look into starting hunts on these areas and moving antelope to them.

· **Verland King:** They do reproduce like mice and don't curse any other place with Antelope if you can help it.

**08:44:03**

**Public Questions: None.**

08:48:50

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**

- Strongly agree: 6 (46%)
- Somewhat agree: 3 (23%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 4 (31%)
- Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)
- Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)
- Total votes: 13
- Weighted average:  $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (4 * 3) + (3 * 4) + (6 * 5)] / 13 = 4.15$
- Kevin Norman, SFW, supports the Division's recommendations.
- Gib Yardley: Personally, doesn't know what good it does for him or anyone else to come to these meetings. You don't listen to anyone or take anyone's recommendations. All my life I've heard about all the antelope on Parker Mountain. They have been trapping them and turning them loose on us in Beaver county. There are so many of them, why aren't you increasing tags? I've got reseeded areas on my personal land and last year we had 90 head of antelope there. Out on the SWD there were 80 head right there on our Winter Range. We ought to harvest 250 is what we recommend. You need to listen to us once in a while or we will be overrun with Wildlife. Elk are out of hand on the Panguitch Lake unit. You don't harvest enough to take up what is born. We won't have anything left for our cattle or anything else. We recommend on the West Desert we take off 200 head of antelope and 100 around Beaver.



08:52:46

**RAC Discussion:**

- **Russell Gardner:** How do we handle the conflict with the Landowners? Depredation permits?
- **Dax Mangus:** Yes. Depredation permits, hazing, fencing. Case by case basis. When folks call us we try to put together a plan to alleviate the damage.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Can you not keep Antelope out by basic hog wire fence?
- **Russell Gardner:** I've never had to keep Antelope out. They generally go under a fence.
- **Verland King:** You'd have to have a net wire fence that was attached to the ground.
- **Mike Grant:** When we introduce or reintroduce antelope into these areas, cattlemen have to purchase allotments to be able to have those and graze on those allotments. Does the division have to purchase, do we own AUM's and have so much of an allotment?
- **Dax Mangus:** The Division doesn't purchase or hold any AUM's. AUM's is really a system used to monitor domestic livestock grazing. When the division is going to move animals to a new area, it goes through multiple levels of internal review in state government. Not something we take lightly, it's pretty involved.
- **Verland King:** The question you asked is the problem. Gib and anyone else who has land the DWR can come in and plant their animals, like Elk, there is no regard for people who are already there. They turn the Wildlife loose and they infringe on the Ranchers and Livestock Producers for years. Falls on deaf ears.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Who uses the landowner permits? Is it only the family or the landowner?
- **Dax Mangus:** If we issue a mitigation voucher the Landowner can transfer them to someone else, they would have to redeem it for a permit.

Specific boundaries apply to the mitigation vouchers. If we issue a mitigation permit, those are for the landowner, immediate family member or full-time employee.

- **Kevin Bunnell:** And Chuck, we give them the choice. A Voucher can transfer. Permits are free.

- **Bryant Johnson:** I just wanted to speak to that a little bit. The Landowners should be able to sell those and make up some money off them to help with what they have lost.

- **Kevin Bunnell:** Let me clarify, the Anterless Vouchers can be sold. Some do market them and make money off of them.

- **Riley Roberts:** Appreciates the effort made over the past decade with the division, landowners and livestock operators. This board is just an advisory council to the state.

**09:02:10**

**MOTIONS:**

The following motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Mike Grant.

**MOTION:** I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

**Passed 8-2. Opposed: Russell Gardner and Verland King.**

**09:03:27**

**9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024**

**(Action)**

**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**

Presented his recommendations and answered questions.

09:05:25

**RAC Questions:**

- **Austin Atkinson:** The two Pine Valley hunts. On the New Harmony we continue to have a couple dozen permits. Why do we still have these hunts year after year?
- **Dax Mangus:** Centered around private land agriculture. Season dates are pretty early to target resident deer. Jason Nicholes, biologist for Pine Valley unit may be able to fill in any gaps.
- **Jason Nicholes:** Sounds accurate. Early season hunt targeting the Ag land. Law of diminishing returns. We keep the pressure on and keep the herd from growing.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Just the Doe hunts, maybe we could transplant to other units?
- **Mike Grant:** In transplanting these Deer, I hear that they just keep coming back and the transmission of disease. Is it logical that we move them?
- We watch the Wildlife Tracker. You are still having Deer migrate from Wyoming to Northern Utah and sometimes further south, we don't want to transfer CWD but we do have deer moving larger distances than we have transplanted them.
- **Dax Mangus:** We did move quite a few Deer for several years.
- Natural migration can be concerning to a point but I don't want it to be us moving the disease, if it moves on its own that is unfortunate.
- **Bryant Johnson:** When we do any kind of transplant we do blood tests, etc. Isn't that a way to test for disease before we move them?

· **Dax Mangus:** We are not there yet with Chronic Waste Disease. The way we get the results back on CWD typically takes much longer.

**09:12:00**

**Public Questions: None.**

09:12:16

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**

- Strongly agree: 3 (18%)
- Somewhat agree: 3 (18%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 2 (12%)
- Somewhat disagree: 4 (24%)
- Strongly disagree: 5 (29%)
- Total votes: 17
  
- Weighted average:  $[(5 * 1) + (4 * 2) + (2 * 3) + (3 * 4) + (3 * 5)] / 17 = 2.71$

· **Steven Yardley:** I would have been here sooner, the Division's website said the meeting was at the Sharwin Smith Center. Where are they proposing to put the antlerless elk permit numbers compared to what they have been in terms of units?

· **Kevin Bunnell:** In terms of units?

· **Steven Yardley:** Panguitch Lake and Southwest Desert.

· **Dax Mangus:** Panguitch Lake 50 last year, 50 again this year.

· **Jason Nicholes:** Southwest Desert 100 last year and a couple of areas around Burbank/Garrison for depredation. So, 150 overall. This year unit wide 75 permits and did away with one of the Garrison/Burbank so that number is down to 105 from 150.

· **Steven Yardley:** Where are the actual numbers compared to target numbers?

· **Teresa Griffin:** This last year when the elk unit plans were passed the objective was 975 on Southwest Desert, now our population objective is 1050-1250 varying on drought years. The current estimate is 1000. On the Panguitch Lake unit the objective is 1100-1500 current estimate is 1100,

last year's objective was 1100-1300. In addition, on the Panguitch Lake unit we have 25 draw permits and 50 private lands only permits.

· **Dax Mangum:** I did find those numbers just to verify.

· **Steven Yardley:** The reason I wanted to know these numbers is because as we have been going up on permits there's a lot of our pastures that we run on that look like they have had sheep camped there for 1-2 months. I recognize the income and revenue that the DWR received from the elk numbers but you're doing it at the expense of the permittees and the landowners. I've heard talk of money being funneled down from DWR to SFW to purchase permits and turn them back in so they can enlarge the number of herds, that is a misuse of public funds. There didn't used to be any elk on those mountains and now the numbers are continually going up. We try our best to manage the ranges and we would like to see DWR be a little more responsible about that in both issuing more permits and not continually increasing the objective numbers, it's a slap in the face.

09:20:26

**RAC Discussion:**

- **Russell Gardner:** When they passed this Elk plan last year and increased them didn't they put into place
- **Dax Mangus:** Yes, we have a window of time during the year when we hunt August 01 through January 31, pretty wide window to avoid shooting pregnant/nursing cow elk.
- **Kyle Christensen:** Russell, in that plan we did suggest we form a committee. We'll meet in the Fall to talk about if there are areas of concern
  
- **Russell Gardner:** I understand they can only be hunted from August to January, is there other means to disperse them if they are just sitting in one place?
  
- **Kyle Christensen:** Yes, that's the point of having a targeted hunt. We have had a hunt on Panguitch Lake unit before, targeted on top and some of those areas and it would move those elk.
  
- **Riley Roberts:** I can't speak for the Southwest Desert, but I was RAC representative in regard to Panguitch lake, I feel like there was a very good representation from the permittees and those that ran livestock, the division and we met for several hours and I feel like we are right where we're supposed to be. Group was a very positive thing.
  
- **Dax Mangus:** Mr. Chair, I believe this should be part of the conversation. There's a lot of habitat work that occurs on the lands. Yes, Elk eat grass. Our partners do a lot of work to create habitat that all animals benefit from, including domestic animals. We want to work together as partners. We really want the same thing. Sometimes, we butt heads, but there really is a lot of good work being done.



- **Verland King:** This Elk thing is hard. You talk about all the studies that have been done. The reality is that you really don't know how many Elk you have. You fly them, but you can't count them all. Your estimates are just guesstimates. And then, I've heard this so many times, you've done so much research work and spent so many dollars. You can put a dollar value on it but you can't put a value on what the ranchers have put into the landscape. When you figure it out on a comparative what we have, we have put in a lot more work than you guys and you get to sell the donate tags then get 10% of that and put it on the landscape and throw it in our face. The hunters aren't spending money in Wayne County, they bring their fuel and food with them. There are too many Elk, we need to shoot more Cow Elk.

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** There are a couple of things I'd like to comment on. The Yardley's are good permittees. They move their cows around and do a good job of grazing. We have certain areas that are listed as important for calving or fawning and we try not to disturb those herds during those times, some of those areas overlap Gib Yardley's permitted holdings.

- We've got these Elk objectives. Good water year last year and looking like a good one this year but there are still bare grounds. I would like to encourage the division when we grow these herds be conservative, let the grass get ahead and not get too fast in herd growth.

- **Riley Roberts:** Does the Division feel like they are fairly conservative with these recommendations?

- **Dax Mangus:** We are making recommendations to manage within the plan. Each unit is a little different.

**09:33:02**

**MOTIONS:**

The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Mike Grant.

**MOTION:** I move that we accept the Division's 2024 Antlerless Permit recommendations as presented.

Passed 9-1. Verland King opposed (Doesn't approve of Elk or Pronghorn).

**09:34:19**

**10) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game (Action)**

**Rule Amendments**

- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator

This was a hodge-podge of a recommendation from our HB 382.

Presented his recommendations and answered questions.

09:35:55

**RAC Questions:**

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** No season on Residents and Non-residents season is May 1-December?
- **Rusty Robinson:** Correct, most of the surrounding states have a shed hunting season that begins May 1st. It was the sentiment of the committee that if we didn't limit non-residents there would potentially be an influx of non-residents creating added pressure.
- **Austin Atkinson:** A license is not required, just a certificate of registration or ethics course?
- **Rusty Robinson:** That was a recommendation from the committee but because state code specifically outlines activities that we can require a hunting license for we needed that to be added to state code to specify that shed hunting would require hunting license, the legislative levels decided to not require a license or permit to hunt sheds.
- **Paul Washburn:** Correct.
- **Austin Atkinson:** If an individual is actively looking for antler sheds, how do they prove they're a resident of Utah?
- **Rusty Robinson:** They still have to provide their ethics course, which I believe has your address on it. I assume law enforcement officers could spot check and check driver's licenses and their home address to prove they were a resident or non-resident.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** I think it's the reverse. We have to prove they're a Non-resident more than them proving they're a resident.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Question on the commercial antler buyer, can he be a non-resident? So a non-resident could be in the state handling shed antlers during the closed season as long as it was commercial activity and not picking them up?
- **Rusty Robinson:** Yes he can, that would be part of the federal constitution, we can't limit trade.

· **Russell Gardner:** Is there a reason we are not restricting Residents from antler gathering?

· **Rusty Robinson:** There are a couple of reasons the committee chose not to go with a season for Residents. We compared data and couldn't detect deer movement that showed signs of energy expenditure from added pressure. If conditions are bad enough we have to feed deer then we can issue an emergency closure.

· **Austin Atkinson:** Other RAC's had a hang-up with the Cactus Buck going to a non-inspection. Is law enforcement on board with just electronically providing pictures?

· **Paul Washburn:** We haven't had issues. People who might take the wrong animal on a Management Buck or Cactus Buck hunt are willing to self-report. We feel there are few enough of those permits and we check a lot in the field.

**09:44:35**

**Public Questions: None**

**09:44:42**

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**

- Strongly agree: 6 (35%)
- Somewhat agree: 3 (18%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3 (18%)
- Somewhat disagree: 4 (24%)
- Strongly disagree: 1 (5.9%)
- Total votes: 17
- Weighted average:  $[(1 * 1) + (4 * 2) + (3 * 3) + (3 * 4) + (6 * 5)] / 17 = 3.53$

**Kevin Norman:** Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife supports the Division's recommendations.

09:46:11

**RAC Discussion:**

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Took several young men shed hunting last year. Didn't see any Deer or sheds. Saw people on ATV's driving everywhere. If they can't police themselves I don't believe they should have a season.

- **Mike Grant:** Lives in foothills in Sevier County. Non-stop ATV's and 4-wheelers February 1 to the present, driving the Deer back into the winter air, they are fighting for their survival at that point. Too hard to regulate. We don't have data that proves the mortality rate because of it, but the stress can't be viable to the survival of the animal.

- **Bart Battista:** I would concur with the comments that were raised. Believes a good place to start would be to put a season on it.

- **Bryant Johnson:** Thermal imaging. Should have made that year round for big game.

- **Austin Atkinson:** Just to clarify Bryant's comment. He would like to see a change to the night vision devices to be unlawful to possess year round instead of unlawful to use July 31-December 31.

- With regard to the shed gathering season for Non-residents. I think a non-resident shed season sets precedence for other states to do the same to us. We are all non-residents somewhere and I hate to see our rights stripped away from us like Wyoming did to us on shed hunting.

- **Bryant Johnson:** Appreciates Austin's comment. At what point are counties going to want to manage their property?

- The thermal imaging is having an effect on the shed hunting.
  
- **Riley Roberts:** All for people getting out into the hills. That being said, a person cannot count himself as a Sportsman if you are not doing it responsibly. Consequences should be stricter.
  
- **Russell Gardner:** Regarding spotlighting. Does that fall under this? To me, this should not be legal.
  
- Trying to determine if this was part of this recommendation.
  
- **Paul Washburn:** The law is that you cannot spotlight while possessing a weapon. Some counties set their own ordinances regarding spotlighting for non-protected species.
  
- **Austin Atkinson:** It is not addressed in these rule changes. Night vision devices are talking about thermal imagery night vision that would cover new plugins for your phone, it does not have to be a full device?
  
- **Paul Washburn:** Correct
  
- **Rusty Robinson:** That committee is dissolved but we are still in contact, we don't plan to reconvene officially at any point but I have been keeping them apprised.
  
- **Rachel Bolus:** How would you know if someone was using night vision for big game vs coyote?
  
- **Paul Washburn:** It would be up to the officers to investigate and figure out what they were doing.

<p><b>09:57:30</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Bryant Johnson.</p> <p><b>MOTION:</b> I move that we accept the Division’s Shed Antler Gathering recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments as presented, with the recommendation that the Division of Wildlife Resources consider making thermal imaging to locate Big Game a year-round restriction.</p> <p>Passed 9-1. Chuck Chamberlain opposed. Too much information for one motion, would like to see a limitation on shed hunting. Believes it has a negative impact. Would like to see a season date for all shed hunters.</p>
<p><b>10:03:41</b></p>	<p><b>11) 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations</b> (Action)</p> <p>- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator</p> <p>Presented his recommendations and answered questions.</p>
<p><b>10:04:00</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions: None.</b></p>
<p><b>10:04:02</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions: None.</b></p>



**10:04:10**

**Public Comments:**

**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**

- Strongly agree: 2 (29%)
- Somewhat agree: 1 (14%)
- Neither agree nor disagree: 3 (43%)
- Somewhat disagree: 1 (14%)
- Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)
- Total votes: 7
  
- Weighted average:  $[(0 * 1) + (1 * 2) + (3 * 3) + (1 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 7 = 3.57$

**10:04:44**

**RAC Discussion**

- **Austin Atkinson:** I know there was some discussion in the other RAC meetings about there being no Antlerless permits on some of the units in Northern Utah. Have you had a chance to look at how those Motions shook out? And if it would be fair to the public to offer at least a one to one if they had bull permits?
  
- **Chad Wilson:** Yes, it depends on the objectives and how many animals are there. I feel comfortable with the biologist making those recommendations with the CWMUs. If we push too hard for cow elk they could potentially get all the bull tags and charge trespass fees and then the public has zero, it's a bit of a balancing act.

<b>10:06:17</b>	<b>MOTIONS:</b>  The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.  <b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit recommendations as presented.</b>  <b>Passed unanimously.</b>
<b>10:07:04</b>	<b>Next Board Meeting: May 2, 2024 9:00 a.m. Farmington, Utah</b> <b>Next Meeting: May 21, 2024 6:00 p.m. Richfield DNR Building</b>
<b>10:07:35</b>	<b>Meeting adjourned.</b> <b>Motion by Russell to adjourn.</b>

**RAC AGENDA**  
**April 17, 2024**

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/yj5QSDR3xGE>

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1.  | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure<br>-RAC Chair  |               |
| 2.  | Approval of Agenda and Minutes<br>-RAC Chair  |               |
| 3.  | Wildlife Board Meeting Update<br>-RAC Chair   | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4.  | Regional Update<br>-DWR Regional Supervisor   | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5.  | Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024<br>-Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator                                       | ACTION        |
| 6.  | Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024<br>-Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator                 | ACTION        |
| 7.  | Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024<br>-Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator  | ACTION        |
| 8.  | Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024<br>-Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator                                   | ACTION        |
| 9.  | Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024<br>-Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator                                 | ACTION        |
| 10. | Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments<br>-Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator | ACTION        |
| 11. | 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations<br>-Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator          | ACTION        |

Regional Presentations Only

CWMU Units 4,5, & 6 report – NR Only    INFORMATIONAL  
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

NR RAC – April 10th 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden  
<https://youtube.com/live/TbRy6NuQgoY>

SER RAC – April 17th 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/yj5QSDR3xGE>

CR RAC – Thursday, April 11th 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Room  
5. N. Main Street, Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/62P2C5vuu7k>

NER RAC – April 18th 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources NER Office  
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/vJ8VcvNAsMs>

SR RAC – April 16th 6:00 PM  
Gilbert Great Hall Rm 203, R. Haze Hunter  
Southern Utah University  
<https://youtube.com/live/qDdeX9-GtFo>

Board Meeting – May 2nd 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay  
<https://youtube.com/live/QvH1qoTk1Qk>

## **Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

**APRIL 17, 2024**

### **Summary of Motions**

#### **Action Item 1: 2024 Deer Permit Recommendations**

- Motion to accept the Division proposal as presented with the adjustment that we accept the yellow (higher) recommended numbers in the Southern Region units. Cash Stallings made the motion. Seconded by Charles Fischer. Motion passes 6-2

#### **Action Item 2: 2023 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations**

- Motion for the San Juan River to have two tags every other year. Next year the permit would be 2 permits. Motion by Scoot Flannery. Withdraw motion
- Motion by Sunshine Brosi to support recommendations as presented. Seconded by Charles Fischer. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Action Item 3: 2024 Elk Permit Recommendations**

- Motion to accept the recommendations as presented. Motion by Dana Truman. Second by Charles Fischer. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Action Item 4: 2023 Antelope Permit Recommendations**

- Motion to accept recommendation as presented. Motion by Sunshine Brosi, Seconded by Dana Truman. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Action Item 5: 2023 Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

- Motion to accept the DWR's antlerless recommendations as presented. Motion by Charles Fischer. Seconded by Cash Stallings. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Action Item 6: Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments**

- Motion to accept the shed antler gathering recommendations as proposed. Motion by Charles Fischer. Seconded by Sunshine Brosi. Motion passes 6-2.
- Motion to approve the the remainder of this agenda as presented, with exception of the night vision restrictions, which will be discussed and voted on next. Motion by Tyler Gilson. Seconded by Cash Stallings. Motion passes unanimously.
- Motion to not change the wording regarding night vision, so that it remains "unlawful to use" instead of "unlawful to possess" as proposed by the Division. Motion made by Tyler Gilson,

seconded by Scoot Flannery. Tie 4-4. Chairman Eric Luke votes against the motion. The motion fails.

- Motion to accept the Division's night vision recommendations as proposed. Motion by Cash Stallings. Seconded by Sunshine Brosi. Motion passes 6-2

**Action Item 7: CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations**

- Motion to support DWR's recommendation as presented. Motion by Sunshine Brosi. Seconded by Brad Richman. Motion passes 7-1

DRAFT

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

April 17, 2024

Attendance

**RAC Members**

Eric Luke – Chair  
Dana Truman – Vice Chair  
Chris Wood – Exec Secretary

Sunshine Brosi  
Charles Fischer  
Tyler Gilson  
Darren Olsen

Scot Flannery  
Brad Richman  
Cash Stallings

**Board Member**

Kent Johnson

**RAC Excused**

Jack Cantsee Jr.  
Justin Ivins

Joe Sacco  
Kirk Player

Lynn Sitterud  
Steven Duke

**Division Personnel**

Mike Canning  
Chris Wood  
JD Abbott  
TJ Cook  
Joe Christensen

Chad Wilson  
Brandon Behling  
Wade Paskett  
Ian Montgomery  
Lindy Varney

Dax Mangum  
Brad Crompton  
Dustin Mitchell  
Rusty Robinson

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**  
**April 17, 2024**  
**Minutes**

- 00:00:00** 1) Chairman Eric Luke Called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and read a statement. All RAC members introduced themselves.
- 00:07:52** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
- The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** To approve the agenda and minutes.
- 00:08:43** 3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update by Eric Luke (Informational)**
- Link on website to view.
- 00:11:30** 4) **Regional Update – Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**
- Chris Wood Updated the RAC on all Regional Activities.
- 00:19:05** 5) **Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**
- View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- Dax Mangum clarified a miscalculation in the recommendations.
- 00:21:28** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- How often do buck to doe ratios match the model after the season. Anticipation for ratios next year. Age class information. Estimated population growth. Permit allocation for residents and non-residents. Abajo recommendation.
- 00:36:59** **Public Questions**
- None
- 00:37:07** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**
- Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.
- 00:38:34** **Public Comment**
- Kevin Norman, SFW – Supports the recommendation.
- 00:40:15** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**
- How do incorrect recommendations manifest? Population models. Appreciation for the division explaining recommendation process. Disregarding the management plan last year **and following**

this year. Not opposed to the division's recommendations. Statewide opinions should have input for all regions.

The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 6-2.

**MOTION:** Accept the Division's proposal as presented with the adjustment that the proposed model numbers are used for allocation.

**01:02:08 6) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation.

**01:04:13 Questions form RAC Members/Public**

Mountain goat estimates. 2 North San Rafael bighorn sheep expo or conservation permits. How close are we to getting 2 tags for the San Juan, San Juan River unit? Potential for 2 tags every other year. Possibility for nonresident bison permits to have a separate draw for a later date. Book Cliffs Little Creek South Bison and plan for access. North Slope bull moose hunt recommendations.

**01:23:14 Public Questions**

None

**01:23:17 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

**01:24:09 Public Comment**

Kevin Norman, SFW – Supports the recommendation as presented.

**01:24:58 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Supports the opportunity to be able to jump from 1 to 2 permits when possible. Appreciative of the OIAL opportunity. Possibility for support in increasing mountain goat permits

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery to have 2 tags every other year for the San Juan River unit.

**MOTION:** Withdrawn.

The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the recommendations as presented.

**01:40:18 7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>



Dax Mangum gave a reminder that the division implemented a new statewide elk plan in 2023.

**01:41:13 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

How were last year's changes perceived? Success rates for new any bull units. Feedback regarding the Paunsagaunt unit. Success rates for late season archery. Difference in success rates between unlimited any bull hunt and early season. Counts for elk on limited entry and any bull units. Confidence in the statewide elk estimate. Age management factor and less big bulls.

**01:52:30 Public Questions**

None

**01:52:50 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

**01:53:56 Public Comment**

Kevin Norman, SFW – Supports the divisions recommendations with the exception of the San Juan unit.

**01:55:00 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Teeth submission. Overall success rates with the early rifle season. Appreciation for the new elk plan. Clarification on the public comment on San Juan. Recommendation factors other than age class harvested. RAC thoughts on SFW recommendation.

The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the recommendation as presented.

**02:07:29 8) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Dax Mangum summarized the presentation.

**02:08:45 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Status on the San Rafael North unit.

**02:08:55 Public Questions**

None

**02:11:00 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood Summarized the public comments received.

**02:11:30 Public Comment**

Kevin Norman, SFW – Supports the division's recommendations.

**02:11:47 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the recommendation as presented.

**02:12:33 9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024 (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Dax Mangum summarized the presentation.

**02:13:36 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Book Cliffs unit under objective. CWD tags in the Myton area. Predictions for CWD numbers and response for La Sal. Question regarding public comment about disallowing the take of a cow moose with a calf at her side.

**02:33:04 Public Questions**

None

**02:33:08 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood Summarized the public comments received.

**02:33:57 Public Comment**

None

**02:34:01 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Do we have similar problems moving Antelope as deer with CWD? More conversation about habitat, winter range and summer habitat.

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the recommendation as presented.

**02:38:41 10) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations and Big Game Rule Amendments (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation and explained the logic of the committee.

**02:43:36 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Reasoning for the legislature exempting private landowners from this. Why the need for 2 separate seasons? Process for determining restitution value for sheds and ability to adjust. Night vision and possession verbiage. Season dates for night vision restrictions. Management and cactus buck check in.

**02:55:19 Public Questions**

None

**02:55:25 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood Summarized the public comments received.

**02:56:28 Public Comment**

Kevin Norman, SFW – Supports the recommendation.

**02:56:42 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Support for the recommendations as change was needed. Doesn't necessarily support another season. Night vision and possession. Dislike for private land exemption, understanding can't be changed by this body. Appreciation for email regarding moose calf at heel. Commercial antler buyer registration details, enforcement and funds.

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Sunshine Brosi and passes 6-2.

**MOTION:** Accept the shed antler portion recommendation as presented.

The following motion was made by Tyler Gilson, seconded by Cash Stallings and passes unanimously.

**MOTION:** To approve with the remainder of this agenda as presented with the exception of the night vision restrictions, which will be discussed and voted on next.

The following motion was made by Tyler Gilson, seconded by Scoot Flannery with a tie 4-4. Chairman opposed; motion failed.

**MOTION:** Not to change the wording regarding night vision, so that it remains "unlawful to use" instead of "unlawful to possess" as proposed by the division.

The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Sunshine Brosi and passes 6-2.

**MOTION:** Accept the divisions night vision recommendation as presented.

**03:25:26 11) 2024 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Chad Wilson had no clarifications.

**03:25:43 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Data regarding CWMU cow harvests. Does the division issue cow permits to bring in a population when a unit is over objective? Are CWMU's required to do the same?

**03:30:15 Public Questions**

None

**03:30:25 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood Summarized the public comments received.

**03:30:41 Public Comment**

None

**03:30:47 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Information presented on units 4, 5 & 6 Asks are CWMU's cutting back on buck harvests just like the public. Question should be "Are they harvesting enough elk to make a difference for the deer population." They are harvesting more bulls than cows.

The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi, seconded by Brad Richman and passed 7-1.

**MOTION:** Accept the recommendation as presented

**03:35:32 Motion to adjourn: Dana Truman/Sunshine Brosi**

DRAFT

**Northeastern Region RAC Meeting**  
April 18, 2024

**RAC Members**

**Attending**

Dusty Carpenter  
Richard Buhler  
Eric Major  
Brad Horrocks  
Natasha Hadden  
Grizz Oleen-chair  
Jake Huber-remote  
Nathan Crapo  
Mark Chynoweth  
Ritchie Anderson-remote

**Absent**

Rebekah Jones  
Malarik Harrison

**Ute Tribe Present**

**Wildlife Board Members Present**

Randy Dearth

**DWR Personnel Present**

Miles Hanberg  
Torrey Christophersen  
Tonya Selby  
Dallon Christensen  
Dax Mangus  
Levi Watkins  
Pat Rainbolt  
Rusty Robinson  
Derrick Ewell  
Randall Thacker  
Chad Wilson  
Rose Fedelleck-Remote

**Northeast Region RAC Meeting**  
**April 18, 2024**  
**Vernal, Utah**  
**Summary of Motions**

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Eric Major, and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the Agenda and Minutes as presented.**

**Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Brad Horrocks, and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Brad Horrocks, seconded by Dusty Carpenter, and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**Elk Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Eric Major And passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Ritchie Anderson And passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Eric Major, seconded by Natasha Hadden  
And passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Richard Buhler  
And passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

**CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Ritchie Anderson  
And passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Mark Chynoweth  
And passed unanimously.

**Motion to Adjourn.**

<b>06:00:00</b>	RAC Chair Grizz Oleen called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel was present. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations. Public comments are .to be kept at 3 min Introduced new RAC Members. Welcomed public.
<b>06:03:18</b>	<b>1) <u>Approval of Agenda &amp; Minutes</u></b> (Action) The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Eric Major, and passed unanimously. <b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</b>

6:03:56	<b>3) <u>Wildlife Board Meeting Update</u></b> (Informational) Grizz Oleen updated the RAC.
6:07:15	<b>4) <u>DWR Regional update</u></b> (Informational) Miles Hanberg updated the RAC on all regional activities.
6:16:57	<b>5) <u>Deer Permit Recommendations for 2024</u></b> (Action) Presented by Dax Mangus
6:18:17   6:23:00   6:25:00   6:33:06   6:36:23	<b>RAC Questions &amp; comments</b> How did the other RACs like the permit numbers? Dax Mangus elaborates. How do you come up with permit numbers? Dax Mangus elaborates. Are Southern Region counts accurate? Dax Mangus elaborates. What are the deer counts in the Northeastern Region? Randall Thacker elaborates. Do you think the counts near Private and Tribal property is tainted? Dax Mangus elaborates. Does anyone count deer with Thermal Imaging? Dax Mangus elaborates.
6:37:42	<b>In-person Public comments:</b> Tanner Carlson SFW- strongly support the Divisions recommendations.
6:38:05	<b>Miles Hanberg read Online Public Comment:</b> 29% Strongly agree 14% Somewhat agreed 57% Strongly disagreed-hard winter, numbers should stay the same.
6:39:50	<b>RAC Discussion &amp; Questions:</b> Grizz Oleen gives update from the Mule Deer Committee.
6:44:03	<b>5) The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Brad Horrocks, and passed unanimously.</b>



6:44:41	<b>6) <u>Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations 2024</u> (action)</b>  Presented by Rusty Robinson.
6:47:20	<b>RAC Questions and comments:</b> Is there a plan in place to keep the Bison from going to Colorado? What is the herd objective? Rusty Robinson & Clint Sampson elaborate.
6:51:01	What agreements for access to the Roadless area? Rusty Robinson elaborates.
6:52:15	What was the % of Mountain Goat loss in the Uintas? Rusty Robinson elaborates. Any chance hunters will be able to harvest Nannies or Billies? Rusty Robinson & Randall Thacker elaborate.
6:56:28	<b>Public Questions and Comments:</b> N/A
7:56:38	<b>Miles read online comments.</b> 40% strongly agreed 40% somewhat agreed 20% strongly disagreed  .
6:57:26	<b>RAC Comments:</b> N/A
6:57:05	<b>6)</b> The following motion was made by Brad Horrocks, seconded by Dusty Carpenter, and passed unanimously.  <b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division</b>
6:58:15	<b>7) <u>Elk Permit Recommendations 2024</u> (Action)</b>  Presented by Dax Mangus
7:04:00	<b>RAC Questions</b> Do you have mid plan reviews? Dax Mangus elaborates. Elk youth hunt pressure issues need to be addressed. Was there a jump in non-resident permits?
7:07:30	Dax Mangus elaborates.

	<p>Is it reasonable to say you can't control the numbers of spike elk killed in the Book cliffs?          Dax Mangus elaborates.</p>
7:13:00	<p><b>Public Questions:</b>          N/A</p>
7:13:05	<p><b>Online Public Comments:</b>          Miles read the online comment;          13% Strongly agreed          38% Neutral          13% Disagreed          38% Strongly disagreed</p>
7:13:06	<p><b>Public comments:</b>          Tanner Carlson SFW-San Juan permit numbers stay the same this year.</p>
7:22:15	<p>JC Brewer hunts Book Cliffs every year, strongly disagrees in a change.</p>
7:15:04	<p><b>RAC Comments:</b>          Youth Elk hunt dates overlapping other hunts.</p>
7:19:00	<p>Do something different with the Spike Elk hunt in Book cliffs.</p>
7:23:10	<p>7) The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Eric Major          And passed unanimously.  <b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.</b></p>
7:34:54	<p><b>8) <u>Antelope Permit Recommendations 2024</u> (Action)</b>          Presented by Dax Mangus</p>
7:36:10	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b>          Has the Coyote program helped the Antelope herd?          Dax Mangus elaborates.          Age class on Antelope.</p>
7:40:00	<p>How are other units doing on population objectives?          Dax Mangus elaborates.          How are the Myton/Pleasant Valley deer doing?          Derrick Ewell elaborates.</p>
7:42:39	<p><b>Public Questions:</b>          N/A</p>

7:42:40	<b>Online Comments</b> 40% Strongly agree 20 % Somewhat agree 20% Neutral 20% Strongly disagree
7:43:46	<b>RAC Comments:</b> N/A
7:43:52	<b>8)</b> The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Ritchie Anderson And passed unanimously.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division</b></p>
7:45:12	<b>9) <u>Antlerless Permit Recommendations 2024</u> ( Action)</b>  Presented by Dax Mangus
7:46:56  7:47:00  7:56:00	<b>RAC Questions:</b> Several units are under objective on Elk why are you still giving permits? Dax Mangus elaborates. Where are we on removing horses in the Book Cliffs? Dax Mangus & Ritchie Anderson elaborate. Can we reduce the number of mortalities involving deer and fawns on Highway 40? Derrick Ewell & Pat Rainbolt elaborate. Has there ever been a Control Cow hunt on the Wasatch unit? Dax Mangus elaborates. What is the data showing on targeting older Cow Elk? Dax Mangus elaborates.
8:00:00	<b>Online Comments:</b> 33% Strongly agree 33% Somewhat agree 33% Strongly disagree
8:01:30	<b>Public Comments:</b> N/A
8:02:00	<b>RAC Comments:</b> Thinks we would need a bonus to get people to kill an old cow
8:03:00	<b>9)</b> The following motion was made by Eric Major seconded by Natasha Hadden. And passed unanimously.  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division</b></p>
8:04:18	<b>10) <u>Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations for 2024</u> (Action)</b>  Presented by Rusty Robinson

<p><b>8:09:10</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b>          Implementing Shed hunting license?          How do you patrol non-residents for license?          Statewide shed closures when feeding deer/elk?          How do you regulate selling shed antlers?          Rusty Robinson elaborated.</p>
<p><b>8:13:26</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions:</b>          N/A</p>
<p><b>8:13:30</b></p>	<p><b>Online Comments:</b>          43% Strongly agree          29% Somewhat agree          29% Strongly disagree</p>
<p><b>8:14:12</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments:</b>          N/A</p>
<p><b>8:14:14</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Comments:</b>          Don't like the season closure for non-residents like we are drawing lines.          Statewide closure is more pressure-driven than condition-driven.          Don't want to see this get overregulated on this activity.          Mixed feelings about regulating a season for non-residents.          We already have laws in place.</p>
<p><b>8:17:27</b></p>	<p><b>10).</b> The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Richard Buhler          And passed unanimously.   <b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division</b></p>
<p><b>8:18:40</b></p>	<p><b><u>11) CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024 (Action)</u></b>           Presented by Chad Wilson</p>
<p><b>8:18:50</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b>          How much did the Diamond Mountain CWMU shrink?          Permit numbers adjusted?          Chad Wilson elaborates.</p>

<p><b>8:21:14</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions:</b>          N/A</p>
<p><b>9:00:12</b></p>	<p><b>Online Comments:</b>          50% Strongly agree          25% Neutral          25% Somewhat agree</p>
<p><b>8:21:30</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments:</b>          N/A</p>
<p><b>8:21:42</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b>          Would like to see more CMWU tags to the public.</p>
<p><b>8:22:28</b></p>	<p><b>11)</b> The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden seconded by Ritchie Anderson and passed unanimously.   <b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division</b></p>
<p><b>8:23:27</b></p>	<p>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Mark Chynoweth          And passed unanimously.   <b>Motion to Adjourn</b></p>