

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 9, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtube.com/live/Ow4MtC-4Nz8>

Revised January 6, 2025

Thursday, January 9, 2025 – 9:00 am

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|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Randy Dearth, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Randy Dearth, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman<br>Dedicated Hunter – Bryan Christensen                | <b>CONTINGENT</b>             |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b>          |
| 5. Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027<br>– Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator            | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 6. Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations<br>– Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33<br>– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator              | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 8. Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10<br>– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator                           | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 9. Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11<br>– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator                        | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 10. Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64<br>– Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III                                | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 11. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations<br>– Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator              | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 12. West Desert Complex Management Plans<br>– Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist – Tooele District                 | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 13. Prohibited Species Variance Requests<br>– Alyssa Hoekstra, Native Herpetology Coordinator                      | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| 14. Restricted Muzzleloader Definition Clarification<br>– Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator                 | <b>ACTION</b>                 |
| <del>15. Wildlife Resources and State Parks MOU update<br/>– Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief</del>              | <del><b>INFORMATION</b></del> |
| 16. Other Business<br>– Randy Dearth, Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>             |

## Wildlife Board Action Log

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

### Winter 2024 – 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: To be presented January 9, 2025  
Placed on Action Log: January 4, 2024

### Winter 2024 – Target Date – Shed Antler Gathering Season Date Recommendations

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Shed Antler Gathering Committee to reconvene and to recommend shed antler gathering season dates for residents that matches the non-resident dates. The division should report back with a new recommendation from the committee during the December 2024 RAC meetings/January 2025 Wildlife Board meeting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: To be presented January 9, 2025  
Placed on Action Log: May 2, 2024

### Winter 2024 – Target Date – Dedicated Hunter Hours Bank

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to explore the concept of “banking” dedicated hunter hours the months prior to the tags being issued the first year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Gary Nielson  
Assigned to: Bryan Christensen  
Action: To be presented January 9, 2025  
Placed on Action Log: June 13, 2024

### Spring 2025 – Target Date – Green Pelts

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the viability of selling green pelts for both bear and cougar. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Paula Richmond  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: To be presented January 9, 2025  
Placed on Action Log: June 13, 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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Conservation Permit Hunt Ending Dates

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division starting in 2026 to look at moving the Conservation season dates in line with the public dates and to take the proposal through the public process. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: December 12, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – State Parks Memorandum of Understanding – Antelope Island State Park

**MOTION: I move that we ask that as the division works on the Memorandum of Understanding with State Parks, if there are 2 tags for sheep or deer, that they alternate between who goes first (auction versus public); also the division can work on a deal for the split of the sale of the conservation permit.**

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: December 12, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Spearfishing

**MOTION: I move that we ask the division to study the possibilities of increased opportunities for spearfishing and to look at the impact spearfishing on fisheries in Utah may have. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Trina Hedrick  
Action: Under study  
Placed on Action Log: September 19, 2024

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 12, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/nJIwj-iFevI>

Thursday, December 12, 2024 - 9:00 am

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Randy Dearth, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Randy Dearth Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Canning, DWR Deputy Director  | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5. Statewide Mule Deer Plan 2025-2030<br>– Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator                                   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 6. Mule Deer Hunt Structure/Research Proposal and R657-5<br>– Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator              | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 7. Buck and Bull 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates<br>– Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator                        | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 8. Once-in-a-Lifetime 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates<br>– Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator     | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 9. R657-62 Amendments – GS/DH Applications and Youth Allocations<br>– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator    | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 10. CWMU Renewals and CWMUs with Public Land LOA Renewals<br>– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 11. Antelope Island Conservation Permit<br>– Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator                   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 12. Residency Amendment – R657-45 and R657-62<br>– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator                       | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 12. Other Business<br>– Randy Dearth, Chairman  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |

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

**Wildlife Board Motions**

Winter 2024 – 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

Winter 2024 – Target Date – Shed Antler Gathering Season Date Recommendations

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Shed Antler Gathering Committee to reconvene and to recommend shed antler gathering season dates for residents that matches the non-resident dates. The Division should report back with a new recommendation from the committee during the December 2024 RAC meetings/January 2025 Wildlife Board meeting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Randy Dearth  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: May 2, 2024

Spring 2025 – Target Date – Green Pelts

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into the viability of selling green pelts for both bear and cougar. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Paula Richmond  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: June 13, 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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Green Pelts

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at a consistent sheep hung ending date. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: June 13, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Dedicated Hunter Hours Bank

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to explore the concept of “banking” dedicated hunter hours the months prior to the tags being issued the first year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Gary Nielson  
Assigned to: Bryan Christensen  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: June 13, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Spearfishing

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to study the possibilities of increased opportunities for spearfishing, and to look at the impact spearfishing may have on fisheries in Utah. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Trina Hedrick  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: September 19, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – State Parks Memorandum of Understanding – Antelope Island State Park

**MOTION: I move that we ask that, as the Division works on the Memorandum of Understanding with State Parks, if there are only 2 tags for sheep or deer, that they alternate between who goes first (auction versus public); also, the Division can work on a deal for the split of the sale of the conservation permit.**

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: December 12, 2024

Fall 2025 - Target Date – Conservation Permit Hunt Ending Dates

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division, starting in 2026, to look at moving the Conservation season dates to be in line with the public dates, and to take the proposal through the public process.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson  
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson  
Action: Under Study  
Placed on Action Log: December 12, 2024

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
December 12, 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 Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

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

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 19, 2024 Wildlife Board Meeting minutes as submitted.**

3) Statewide Mule Deer Plan 2025-2030 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 3-2, with Bret Selman and Paula Richmond opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we allow the Division to adjust permit numbers 20% without going through the public process.**

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 4-1, with Paula Richmond opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Division's Statewide Mule Deer Plan as presented.**

4) Mule Deer Hunt Structure/Research Proposal and R657-5 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and failed 2-3, with Bret Selman, Gary Nielson and Bryce Thurgood opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the point restrictions on the Pine Valley, with the exception that youth hunters be included in the restrictions.**

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and failed 2-3, with Kent Johnson, Paula Richmond and Gary Nielson opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we that we approve the point restrictions on the Pine Valley as presented.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the weapons restrictions as presented by the Division.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the proposals, with the exception of the antler point restriction proposal as presented.**

5) Buck and Bull 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that on the Paunsaugunt we accept the proposal to overlap management and premium archery; overlap management muzzleloader, premium muzzleloader; keep cactus and premium Any Legal Weapon overlap.**

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

**MOTION: I move that the Three Corners elk hung season structure be the same timeframe/structure as the other hunts—adding an early Any Legal Weapon rifle hunt, and adjusting the muzzleloader season.**

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder as presented, with the exclusion of Fillmore, Oak Creek not having the early Any Legal Weapon hunt.**

6) Once-in-a-Lifetime 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

**MOTION: I move that we ask that, as the Division works on the Memorandum of Understanding with State Parks, if there are only 2 tags for sheep or deer, that they alternate between who goes first (auction versus public); also, the Division can work on a deal for the split of the sale of the conservation permit.**



The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we give the Division authority to turn on and off hunts for nonresidents; for example, if there is a die-off or other significant change.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we ask State Parks to provide an audit of the funds from the sale of the Island's conservation permits.**

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Revised Dates for the public draw for OIAL, and approve all others as presented.**

**NOTE: Pine Valley, Beaver Dam and Pine Valley, Virgin River end dates were incorrectly presented as November 10. The correct end dates are December 26, 2025, and December 31, 2027 respectively.**

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division, starting in 2026, to look at moving the Conservation season dates to be in line with the public dates, and to take the proposal through the public process.**

7) R657-62 Amendments – GS/DH Applications and Youth Allocations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed 4-1, with Bryce Thurgood opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we reject the Division's proposal to give a point for first time youth hunters going into the youth draw.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented.**

8) CWMU Renewals and CWMUs with Public Land LOA Renewals (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented, with the exception of allowing JB Ranch to enroll in the CWMU program.**

9) Antelope Island Conservation Permit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously, with Paula Richmond recusing herself from voting.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Division's proposal to add the Antelope Island Conservation permit to the 3-year cycle.**

10) Residency Amendment – R657-45 and R657-62 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendments as presented and directed by statute.**

11) Other Business (**Contingent**)

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
December 12, 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
J. Shirley – Deputy Director	Bryce Thurgood
	Kent Johnson
	Bret Selman

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Brock McMillan  
Southern – Austin Atkinson  
Southeastern – Eric Luke  
Northeastern – Grizz Oleen  
Northern – Brad Buchanan

Justin Shannon	Mike Christensen	Teresa Griffin	Dustin Mitchell
Kevin Bunnell	Seth Magers	Chad Wilson	Mike Kinghorn
Jim Christensen	Staci Coons	Sydney Lamb	
Jason Vernon	Paige Wiren	Jim Christensen	
Wyatt Bubak	Kyle Maynard	Kent Hersey	
Dax Mangus	Darren DeBloois	Darren DeBloois	
Kenny Johnson	Riley Peck	Dallon Christensen	
Chris Wood	Sydney Lamb	Covy Jones	
Chad Bettridge	Mike Canning	Heather Bernales	
Miles Hanberg	Lindy Varney	Ian Montgomery	
Kevin Bunnell	Rusty Robinson	Devri Tanner	

**Public Present**

Troy Justensen	Dave Anderson	Garritt Slatcoff	Justin Oliver
Angie Wonnecott	Rick Cooper	Mike Christensen	
Chuck Carpenter	Steven Stokes	Lloyd Bott	
Kevin Norman	Kevin Albrecht	Chavis Lundskog	
Bob Orr	Bob Bourland	Ben McCraig	
Brandon Zundel	Zach Saxton	Phil Crowther	
Jeremy Anderson	Travis Hobbs	Kurt	
Rex Shipp	Steve Sorenson	Robert Eichenour	

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
December 12, 2024, DNR Auditorium  
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025  
<https://youtube.com/live/nJlwj-iFevl>

- 00:07:09** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, read the meeting purpose and guidelines statement; and the Board and RAC chairs introduced themselves.
- 00:10:20** 1) **Approval of Agenda** (Action)  
The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**
- 00:10:55** 2) **Approval of Minutes** (Action)  
The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 19, 2024 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.**
- 00:11:35** 3) **Old Business/Action Log** (Contingent)  
There was no old business or action log items to review at this time.
- 00:11:53** 4) **DWR Update** (Informational)  
Deputy Director Mike Canning gave updates on Division personnel changes and on all the Division sections: Administrative Services, Aquatic, Conservation Outreach, Habitat, Law Enforcement and Wildlife; and a Migration Initiative video was shared with the audience.
- 00:23:12** 5) **Statewide Mule Deer Plan 2025-2030** (Action)  
Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus corrected a small error that was published in the plan, and opened the floor for questions.
- 00:24:10** **Board/RAC Questions**  
The Board asked if the Division has plans to collar animals on the Thousand Lakes unit, how much overlap there is with the Thousand Lakes and Fish units, if an annual 15%-20% adjustment of permits built into the Statewide Mule Deer Plan would be a sufficient enough percentage for division biologists to work with annually, and how the Division arrived at the 30% adjustment of permits recommended in the plan.  
The Board also asked how many permits might be added on the Henry Mountains and Paunsaugunt premium limited entry units should the Board accept the Division's recommendation to lower the buck to doe ratio on those units.  
Chairman Dearth asked Dax to explain how those who served on the Mule Deer Committee were chosen, to identify which interests were represented by committee members, and to share what topics were covered in committee meetings.

The Board expressed appreciation for all the different viewpoints that were voiced in committee meetings.

The Board asked how the Division arrived at the buck to doe ratio in the proposed mule deer plan, specifically how much of the recommended ratios were based on scientific data versus social influence.

The Board noted that on a particular hunter survey, people indicated that they want to see bigger bucks and not have to wait for bucks to become bigger over time.

The Board asked if the Mule Deer Committee discussed taking an area with high CWD and going with a lower buck to doe ratio.

Regarding the proposed two limited entry units, the Board asked how the Division chose to make one an any legal weapon hunt, and the other a HAMS hunt.

The RAC asked for clarification on Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountains deer herd productivity.

**00:50:00 Public Input**

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

**00:53:03 RAC Summaries**

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

**00:55:38 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time. The Division clarified that after a statewide plan has been implemented, unit-specific plans are created.

**01:15:25 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**01:16:44 Board Discussion**

The Board both advocated for allowing division biologists a 20% rather than the proposed 30% adjustment in annual permit allocations, and voiced support for the 30% margin. The Board also suggested that a 15% or 20% allowance would be sufficient.

The Board asked what the change in permits would be on the Southwest Desert unit, and stated that the Southern Region would be comfortable with not hunting as often if it means there will be better bucks on the landscape.

The Board proposed keeping the buck to doe ratio at 18:20 on the Beaver West, Southwest Desert and Boulder units in the Southern Region.

The Board asserted that most of the deer harvest takes place on opening weekend, and most of the deer killed are yearling bucks, and then asked if the Division had any current harvest reporting data.

The Board stated that, in truth, people want to hunt and harvest, even though they may say they want a big buck. The Board continued that if hunters really want a

bigger buck, they would hold out for the big buck rather than harvest a buck that is not big; the point being, that the Board was advocating for more opportunity.

The Board noted that public sentiment is that if we have higher buck to doe ratios, there will be bigger bucks, and stated that the proposed mule deer plan will give hunters additional opportunity, and creating opportunity is more valuable than managing for quality. The Board also voiced support for a lower buck to doe ratio in order to provide more public hunting opportunity.

Continuing, the Board further argued that providing opportunity hunts would be a better service to the greater public, and that there are hunters who prefer the meat of a younger buck versus an older buck.

The Board again thanked all who served on the Mule Deer Committee.

Chairman Dearth voiced that, in his opinion, a vote for opportunity would be a good choice.

The following motion was made Bryce Thurgood by seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 3-2, with Bret Selman and Paula Richmond opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we allow the Division to adjust permit numbers 20% without going through the public process.**

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 4 to 1 with Paula Richmond opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Division's Statewide Mule Deer Plan as presented.**

**01:40:34 6) Mule Deer Hunt Structure/Research Proposal and R657-5 (Action)**

Big Game Program Coordinator, Kent Hersey mentioned that, after a lot of discussion on this agenda item during the RAC meetings, the Division supports the original proposal, and also that the plan could accommodate some compromise.

**01:41:26 Board/RAC Questions**

Regarding research study units, the Board asked about the difference between keeping permit numbers the same year-to-year versus managing to a buck to doe ratio, as well as how allowing youth to shoot any buck on a proposed antler point restriction unit when adult hunters would be allowed to shoot only a four point or better could affect the proposed research study.

The Board asked if the Division would consider adding more restricted weapons hunts then what was currently being proposed, if, on the proposed Pine Valley unit antler point restriction hunt, youth harvest success could be teased out of the total data set since youth would be allowed to harvest any buck in the research study area, how the Division would account for the youth harvest success on that Pine Valley unit, and if the youth harvesting any buck affect the purity of the four point or better antler point restriction research study on the Pine Valley unit.

The Board asked the Division what they would think if another state were doing an antler point restriction research study like what was being proposed.

The Board then suggested that Utah try the antler point restriction study in order to “put the argument to bed.”

The Board asked the Division if they would entertain splitting the Cache unit north and south for the proposed restricted weapons hunt, and if the unit were split, would that compromise the data that would be gathered during the study.

The RAC asked how hunters will be notified of hunting unit and type changes if the Board votes in this meeting to pass the proposed changes.

The RAC also asked how future hunts might be implemented should the restricted weapons study show favorable results; how that success might play out in future recommendations statewide?

**02:03:42 Public Input**

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**02:06:31 RAC Summaries**

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

**02:12:03 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**02:53:43 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**02:55:26 Board Discussion**

The Board suggested that, even though the antler point restriction might not yield the desired outcome, the state should still implement it in order to come to a final conclusion about the effectiveness of this strategy to put bigger bucks on the landscape.

The Board noted that the antler point restriction study was not favored by the Mule Deer Committee, and that the study was brought before the Board only because of the provision for youth to harvest any buck in the study unit. The Board also questioned why youth would be included in the restricted weapons study, but not the antler point restriction study.

The Board advocated for conducting research studies that are designed as cleanly as possible, voiced a distinction between a youth weapons restriction hunt versus a youth antler point restriction hunt, and argued for both the pros and cons of youth being able to harvest any buck in a antler point restriction study unit.

The Board discussed how the Mule Deer Committee arrived at the antler point restriction recommendation.

The Board mentioned that reading antler point restriction studies conducted in other states, combined with youth being able to harvest bucks other than four point or better dissuaded them from thinking the antler point restriction study was a good idea, in addition to the fact that pulling both youth and late season muzzleloader

harvest data out from the overall collected harvest data could negatively impact the study.

The Southern RAC board member voiced support for how her region voted.

The Board mentioned that only reason the Mule Deer Committee passed the antler point restriction was because of the provision for youth hunters. The Board also voiced the opinion that providing any opportunity for youth to hunt is a good idea.

The Board voiced support for the proposed restricted weapons hunts, and suggested that restricted weapon type hunts are, among many other tools, another tool that can be used to try and increase deer herd population.

The Board further voiced support for the proposed restricted weapons hunts with the hope that in doing so it will result in the desired outcome.

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond seconded by Kent Johnson and failed 2-3, with Bret Selman, Gary Nielson and Bryce Thurgood opposed.

**MOTION: I move that accept the point restrictions on Pine Valley, with the exception that youth hunters be included in the restriction.**

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and failed 2-3, with Kent Johnson, Paula Richmond and Gary Nielson opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the point restrictions on Pine Valley as presented.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the weapons restrictions as presented by the Division.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the proposals, with the exception of the antler point restriction proposal as presented.**

**03:43:27 LUNCH**

**04:25:24 7) Buck and Bull 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates (Action)**

Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus noted that the Pine Valley antler point restriction was now struck from the Division's proposal.

**04:27:18 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked if the Division supported Paunsaugunt management hunt suggestions that were talked about in the RAC tour, about archery and muzzleloader management cactus buck hunt season dates, and if the Division has concerns about a late season management hunt and potential for bucks with broken antlers to be on the landscape and potentially harvested.



The Board also asked about season dates in the Three Corners area and if there might be any concerns from the other two states if the season structure changed.

**04:34:33 Public Input**

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**04:36:43 RAC Summaries**

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

**04:39:54 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**04:41:36 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**04:42:40 Board Discussion**

The Board voiced support for suggested changes on the Paunsaugunt in order to increase opportunity.

The Board voiced support for the Three Corners elk hunt season structure proposal.

The Board asked about private land being included in the private lands on the White River Colorado state line to the Green River elk hunt.

The Board also asked what the Division's reason was for creating an early season on the limited entry elk Oak Creek unit, and expressed concern that an early hunt might yield too much harvest given the deer's behavior at that time of year.

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

**MOTION: I move that, on the Paunsaugunt, we accept the proposal to overlap management and premium archery; overlap management muzzleloader, premium muzzleloader; and keep cactus and premium Any Legal Weapon overlap (November 1-20).**

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

**MOTION: I move that the Three Corners elk hunt season structure be the same timeframe/structure as other hunts, adding an early Any Legal Weapon rifle hunt, and adjusting the muzzleloader season.**

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder as presented, with the exclusion of Fillmore, Oak Creek not having the early Any Legal Weapon hunt.**

**04:59:43 8) Once-in-a-Lifetime 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Dates (Action)**

Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson corrected a few errors that

were published in the RAC packet. He also referenced input from the RAC tour regarding sheep hunt end dates.

**05:01:11 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked Rusty to share the alternate bighorn sheep season date recommendations that were generated after this agenda item went through the November RAC tour, and if the Division perceived any conflict with trimming the season length for the conservation tag sheep hunts.

The Board also asked if sheep capture conflict was discussed during the conversations about bringing forward the public draw dates.

Chairman Dearth explained that the Board asked for these season date changes, and noted that one region asked if the Division would consider the option of alternating seasons for the auction permit and state draw permit.

The Board asked how they might direct how Antelope Island sheep and deer permits are administered.

The RAC asked how a three-year plan will affect setting permit numbers if dates are not going to be reviewed in three years.

**05:17:01 Public Input**

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**05:17:54 RAC Summaries**

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

**05:19:43 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time. Rusty Robinson commented on a concern raised by the RAC, and asked the Board if they would be comfortable allowing the Division to turn off a hunt for nonresidents during the three-year cycle, should extreme circumstances that affect wildlife be present.

**05:24:23 Board Discussion/Questions**

The Board stated that they would be comfortable with the Division modifying the hunts if extreme circumstances arose.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

**MOTION: I move that we ask that, as the Division works on the Memorandum of Understanding with State Parks, if there are only 2 tags for sheep or deer, that they alternate between who goes first (auction versus public); also, the Division can work on a deal for the split of the sale of the conservation permit.**

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we give the Division authority to turn on and off hunts for nonresidents; for example, if there is a die-off, or other significant changes.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we ask State Parks to provide an audit of the funds from the sale of the Island's conservation permits.**

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Revised Dates for the public draw for OIAL, and approve all others as presented.**

**NOTE: Pine Valley, Beaver Dam and Pine Valley, Virgin River end dates were incorrectly presented as November 10. The correct end dates are December 26, 2025, and December 31, 2027 respectively.**

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division, starting in 2026, to look at moving the Conservation season dates to be in line with the public dates, and to take the proposal through the public process.**

**05:33:37 9) R657-62 Amendments – GS/DH Applications and Youth Allocations (Action)**

Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney opened the floor for questions.

**05:33:55 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked how many points will be added to the system if every first year youth hunter were given a preference point.

**05:35:20 Public Input**

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**05:37:06 RAC Summaries**

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

**05:39:15 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**05:44:15 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries.

**05:45:20 Board Discussion**

The Board laid out why giving youth first-year bonus points is not a good idea, while one Board member highlighted potential advantages to the granting of a bonus point.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the Division's Dedicated Hunter application recommendation.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed 4 to 1, with Bryce Thurgood opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we reject the Division's proposal to give a point for first time youth hunters going into the youth draw.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented.**

**05:56:08 10) CWMU Renewals, and CWMUs with Public Land LOA Renewals (Action)**

Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator Chad Hill shared background information on one of these renewals as well as what, moving forward, the Division's intention is regarding their relationship with this landowner.

**05:58:24 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked if the Division's recommendation has changed.

The Board commented on the landowner's attendance at the November Southeastern RAC meeting.

The Board voiced appreciation for both the landowner pleading his case, and the Division's caution in addressing this issue.

**06:08:33 Public Input**

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

**06:10:28 RAC Summaries**

All RACs passed the Division's recommendations with stipulations.

**06:12:02 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**06:22:00 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reviewed the RAC summaries

**06:22:35 Board Questions/Discussion**

The Board voiced support for allowing the JB Ranch to be in the CWMU program. The Board asked the Division if trusted that the JB Ranch operator would be capable of making the property how it is supposed to be.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented, with the exception of allowing JB Ranch to enroll in the CWMU program.**

**06:30:22 11) Antelope Island Conservation Permit (Action)**

Once-in-a-Lifetime Coordinator Rusty Robinson gave an overview of this action item.

**06:31:27 Board Questions**

Chairman Dearth noted that this agenda item did not go through the public process.

**06:31:59 Public Input**

There was no public input on this agenda item.

**06:32:10 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was given at this time.

**06:34:50 Board Questions/Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Division's proposal to add the Antelope Island Conservation permit to the 3-year cycle.**

**06:35:40 12) Residency Amendment – R657-45 and R657-62 (Action)**

Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney explained the proposed amendment. This agenda item did not go through the public process.

**06:37:26 Board Questions**

The Board asked clarifying questions.

**06:38:28 Board Questions/Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendments as presented and directed by statute.**

**06:38:56 13) Other Business (Contingent)**

There was no other business to discuss.

**06:38:59** Meeting Adjourned

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

1) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (**Action**)

CR: **MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented except for the portion combining all migratory game (not waterfowl) species into one guidebook.**  
**VOTE: Fails 4-6**

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To recommend to the Wildlife Board to combine the Upland Game and Waterfowl guidebooks.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

NR, SR, SER, NER:

**MOTION: I move we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

2) Falconry Reporting Requirements Recommendations (**Action**)

All Regions:

**MOTION: I move we accept Falconry Reporting Requirements Recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

3) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (**Action**)

CR: **MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendations as presented except for allowing the LE harvest to be counted towards the harvest objective quota.**

**VOTE: Passes 9-1**

**MOTION: That for a bear bait box the DWR buffers developed recreation sites and requires a COR to be attached to the containers.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

NR: **MOTION: Subject to nominal effects clause determination coming from forest or**

region that would specific barrels/canisters for baiting on Forest Service lands. (This motion is to state the Forest Service takes no official stance until a nominal effects clause is in place and final regulations are set by the wildlife board)

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: I move we extend hound season to account for road closures and add 3 permits to multi-season bear hunt on the Cache/Ogden unit.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R-657-33 with addition of Limited Entry bear hunters to purchase additional spot and stock permit.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

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

**VOTE: Fails 4-5**

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations on the changes to baiting regulations and other rule changes as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Black Bear Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

**VOTE: Passes 5-4**

**SER: MOTION: TO allow limited entry bear permit holders, who have not harvested a bear, to hunt the spot and stalk season in open units.**

**VOTE: Passes 5-4**

**MOTION: TO ask the Wildlife Board to create an action item that asks the Division to come up with a plan to provide additional bear hunting opportunities on private lands that help meet management objectives and provide opportunities for the public. Those plans will be presented to the public next year.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the plan.**

**VOTE: Fails 5-4**

**MOTION: Propose that the bear hunt strategies and hunt numbers on the South and North Manti units remain the same (2024 permit numbers).**

**VOTE: Passes 5-3**

**MOTION: To keep the hunt strategies for the Boulder unit at a moderate and keep the Bitter Creek at light.**

**Motion fails for lack of a second.**



**MOTION: Approve the remainder of the recommendations as presented.**  
**VOTE: Passes 7-1**

NER: **MOTION: To keep the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek/South bear tags as currently and move harvest strategy to light.**  
**VOTE: Passes 6-2**

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division's black bear proposals.**  
**VOTE: Passes 6-2**

4) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 (**Action**)

CR, NR, SER:

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 as presented.**  
**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

SR: **MOTION: I move that we accept as presented and allow the sale of all parts of the Cougar unless precluded by State Code.**  
**VOTE: Passes 8-1**

NER: **MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division and include skulls and claws as also being legal for sale.**  
**VOTE: Passed 5-3**

5) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 (**Action**)

CR, NR, SR, SER:

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 as presented.**  
**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

NER:

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 as presented.**  
**VOTE: Passes 7-1**

6) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 (**Action**)

CR: **MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented and recommendation that the Division looks to increase the bounty in the targeted areas.**  
**VOTE: Passes 9-1**

NR: **MOTION: I move we accept Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 as**

presented, except increase bounty to \$100 in critical and substantial mule deer habitat areas.

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**SR: MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented, but increase the bounty to \$100.00 in crucial Deer habitat areas and \$75.00 in non-crucial Deer habitat areas.**

**VOTE: Passes 8-1**

**SER: MOTION: to reduce the bounty to \$25 in non-crucial deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

**VOTE: Fails 5-3**

**MOTION: To keep the bounty at \$50 in non-crucial mule deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

**VOTE: Passes 6-2**

**MOTION: To approve the Division's remaining recommendations.**

**VOTE: Passes 7-1**

**NER: MOTION: To target fawning season for mule deer for increased bounty payments as follows: December 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup> - \$100 bounty in crucial habitats, \$75 bounty in crucial habitats for the rest of the year, and \$50 bounty in non-crucial habitat.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the coyote bounty rule proposal as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

7) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations (**Action**)

**CR: MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes 9-1**

**NR: MOTION: I move we reject the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations, no season for residents and season for nonresidents starting May 1.**

**VOTE: Passes 7-2**

**SR: MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented, but in addition to the Deer feeding trigger, we evaluate the feasibility of adding a trigger associated with Deer fat and condition measured during the winter captures.**

**VOTE: Passes 8-1**

**SER: MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes 7-1**

NER: **MOTION: To support the Division's shed antler gathering recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

8) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans (**Action**)

CR: **MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes 9-1**

NR, SR, SER:

**MOTION: I move we accept West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes unanimously**

NER: **MOTION: To support the Divisions proposal as presented but only increase the elk objective to 250 rather than 500.**

**Motion fails for lack of a second**

**MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented.**

**VOTE: Passes 7-1**

## **RAC AGENDA**

### **December 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. Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 **ACTION**  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator
6. Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator
7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
8. Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
9. Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
10. Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 **ACTION**  
- Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III
11. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator
12. West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans **ACTION**  
- Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist – Tooele District

**Central Region RAC Meeting  
Summary of Motions  
December 10, 2024  
Springville, Utah**

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by John Ziegler, seconded by Braden Sheppard and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda for the December 10, 2024 RAC meeting as presented.**

2) Approval of November 14, 2024 RAC Meeting Minutes

The following motion was made by John Ziegler, seconded by Braden Sheppard and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024 Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.**

3) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Josh Lenart and failed 4 in favor and 6 opposed.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented except for the portion combining all migratory game (not waterfowl) species into one guidebook**

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

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

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

**MOTION: To recommend to the Wildlife Board to combine the Upland Game and Waterfowl guidebooks**

4) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations

The following motion was made by John Ziegler and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

5) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by Amos Murphy and passed 9 in favor and 1 opposed (John).

**MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendations as presented except for allowing the LE harvest to be counted towards the harvest objective quota.**

The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Eric Reid and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: That for a bear bait box the DWR buffers developed recreation sites and require a COR to be attached to the containers**

6) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10

The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Bryce Castagetto and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

7) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11

The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Kellen Hyer and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

8) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64

The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Jim Shuler and passed 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Josh L.).

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented and recommendation that the Division looks to increase the bounty in the targeted areas.**

9) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations

The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by John Ziegler and passed 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Mike).

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

10) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans

The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Drew Eline and passed 9 in favor and 1 opposed (Amos).

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented**

## Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance  
December 10, 2024  
Springville, Utah

### RAC Members

#### Attending

Brock McMillan  
Joshua Lenart  
Mike Christensen  
Drew Eline  
John Ziegler  
Bryce Castagnetto  
Amos Murphy - online  
Braden Sheppard  
Kellen Hyer  
Eric Reid  
Jim Shuler - online

#### Absent

Steve Lund  
Scott Jensen (excused)  
Josh Greenhalgh

### Wildlife Board

Gary Nielson - online  
Paula Richmond - online

### DWR Personnel

Sydney Lamb  
Scott Root  
Lt. Matt Briggs  
Dave Lee  
Jason Robinson  
Jason Jones  
Aaron Sisson

Rusty Robinson  
Mike Packer  
Bailee Prestwich  
Jacob Fullmer  
Elicia Cotcher  
Darren DeBloois  
Devri Tanner

Total members of the public in attendance: 10



# Central Region RAC Meeting

December 10, 2024

Springville, Utah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiNEunTx8OQ>

<b>06:00:18</b>	RAC Brock McMillan 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>06:04:11</b>	<b>1) Approval of Agenda &amp; Past Minutes (Action)</b>  The following motion was made by John Ziegler, seconded by Braden Sheppard and passes unanimously  <b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</b>
<b>06:04:51</b>	<b>2) DWR Regional Update (Informational)</b>  Sydney Lamb updated the RAC on all regional activities. Wildlife Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Post-season Deer Classification continues through December.</li><li>- Central Region Deer Captures are in full swing.</li><li>- Turkey Updates:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Trapping &amp; relocating nuisance turkey from South Fork.</li><li>- Receiving 25 turkeys from TX to release on the Oquirrh-Stansbury.</li></ul></li></ul> Aquatics Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fish Movement:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Installed four PIT tag antennas in Provo River Delta.</li><li>- Monitor fish movement (June sucker, Walleye, Carp)</li><li>- Antenna “reads” tagged/chipped fish.</li><li>- Guide habitat management, carp removal etc.</li></ul></li><li>- Preparing funding proposals for next fiscal year:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Species Protection Account (ESMF)</li><li>- WRI/Habitat Council-plans for Tibble Fork, Diamond Fork, and Jordanelle Reservoir.</li></ul></li><li>- Trout in the classroom<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Eggs will be delivered to Utah classrooms on January 8th.</li><li>- Schools and volunteers preparing tanks.</li></ul></li></ul> Habitat Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Masticating over 1000 acres of juniper on 12-Mile and Lasson Draw WMA's to improve mule deer winter habitat.</li><li>- Built 230 stream restoration structures in 12-Mile Thistle Creek and Dairy Fork.</li><li>- Planted approximately 100 K shrub seedlings on 10 different winter range sites.</li></ul> Outreach Section <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ice fishing tips and tricks seminar will take place at the CRO on January 23, 2025..</li><li>- Trout in the Classroom egg distribution to schools takes place on January 8th, 2025..</li><li>- Lots of outreach training and meetings in preparation for 2025.</li><li>- Scott Root retiring this month after 35 years!</li></ul>

	<p><b>Law Enforcement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers are finishing up many investigations that were started during the hunting season and completing the reports that will be filed with the various courts.</li> <li>- With the consolidation of DNR Law Enforcement into a new division, enforcement responsibility for Wasatch County will be covered by Officers in the Northeast Region. Millard County will now fall under the Central Regions Law Enforcement.</li> <li>- Officers are seeing and receiving reports of large bucks on the landscape around the region and will be spending more time patrolling these locations..</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:09:30</b></p>	<p><b>3) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027</b></p> <p>Jason Jones presented to the board.</p>
<p><b>06:09:54</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>RAC members asked questions surrounding the decline of the duck population in North America over the last couple of years. The RAC asked law enforcement to explain what a “possession limit” means and how they enforce possession limit restrictions. The RAC asked how law enforcement determines if a person is going over their possession limit. RAC members asked questions surrounding the scaup season dates for Northern Utah being earlier (less desirable) versus how Southern Utah has a later (more desirable) season and why we do not make them the same. The RAC asked why there are no sandhill crane or tundra swan hunts for Utah county. The RAC asked what the goal is behind combining the guidebooks for multiple species into one cohesive booklet.</p>
<p><b>06:17:42</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:19:02</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No name stated: Will the Black Hawk Hunting Club that the state acquired, be an area that the public will have access to for hunting?</li> <li>- Jason Jones - The Black Hawk Hunting Club grounds will be open to the public, however right now we are working out access issues such as roads, parking lots, boundary fencing etc</li> <li>- No name stated: Did you consider at all instead of allowing access to the public, did you consider turning it into a rest area for waterfowl instead?</li> <li>- Jason Jones - I will not be the person managing the property however I do not believe it will be left as a rest area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:22:50</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <p>The RAC discussed feedback they received from hunters surrounding combining the dove, band tailed pigeon and waterfowl species all into the same guidebook. The RAC</p>

	<p>also discussed the possibility of confusion among hunters should we combine the guidebooks for multiple species (upland game &amp; waterfowl). The RAC mentioned that a great education effort will need to be made to ensure all hunters are educated on the change should they move forward with merging the guidebooks.</p>
<b>06:24:32</b>	<p><b>Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by Josh Lenart. Motion fails 4 in favor, 6 opposed.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented except for the portion combining all migratory game (not waterfowl) species into one guidebook.</b></p>
<b>06:29:30</b>	<p><b>Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Jim Shuler and seconded by Eric Reid. Motion passes unanimously.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.</b></p>
<b>06:31:22</b>	<p><b>Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. Motion passes unanimously.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To recommend that the Wildlife board combine the Upland Game, Small Game and Waterfowl guidebooks.</b></p>
<b>06:31:51</b>	<p><b>4) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jason Jones presented to the board.</p>
<b>06:32:26</b>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>The RAC addressed questions surrounding the possession limit of only three birds for falconers versus waterfowl hunters having a higher possession limit. The RAC asked how many participants are in the falconry program and what types of certificates or registration is required to join the program.</p>
<b>06:33:50</b>	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- None</p>

<b>06:33:54</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Krista Edwards &amp; Hyatt Lynn (UT Falconers Association) - We are in support of Jason Jones and his changes being proposed.</li></ul>
<b>06:35:00</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- None.</li></ul>
<b>06:35:09</b>	<b>Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations</b> <b>MOTION</b> The following motion was made by John Ziegler and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. This motion passes unanimously. <b>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.</b>
<b>06:35:40</b>	<b>5) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33</b> Darren Debloois presented to the board.
<b>06:36:13</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> The RAC asked questions around how many bears are estimated to be in Utah. The RAC clarified how the Division uses tooth data to determine the age of a harvested bear. RAC members asked for a comparison of how many bears were harvested using bait, spot and stalk or hounds. RAC members asked if hunters are required to register their bait sites with a COR. The RAC questioned the success rates of bear harvests during each season as well as the total number of bears harvested for each hunt type. The RAC asked if the plan to raise the number of permits for bears in areas where nuisance bear instances have taken place was a legitimate management technique if only a few bears actually caused any problems. RAC members asked why we would propose counting the limited entry tag holders' bear harvests against the harvest objective bear quotas if they were killed during the spot and stalk season.
<b>06:43:31</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cory Huntsman - With a lot of the indicators pointing towards a decrease in bear numbers: What justification is there to put some of these units into liberal harvest that are showing a decline in population? How much of this was pressure from legislators?</li><li>- Darren Debloois - I wouldn't say there was pressure, however the legislatures had some concerns with conflicts arising from nuisance bears with not only people but livestock, depredation etc.</li></ul>

<b>06:45:15</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Garrett Slatcoff BHA - We support this proposal.</li><li>- Cory Hunstman - The North Manti was proposed to have an increase in tags, however I would propose it be increased as a Harvest Objective tag.</li></ul>
<b>06:46:52</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC discussed how from a Forest Service standpoint, some of the wording of the rule could be adjusted. More language should include rules surrounding buffer zones for established bait sites and how far they need to be from a campground or permanent dwelling, road etc. RAC members expressed their support for working on these changes now so the Forest service partners have a well established understanding of what may affect them. The RAC discussed how hunters are required to have a COR marking their bait sites and how we should also have some kind of identifiable number on active containment bins to aid the Forest service. The benefits of having some sort of identifiable number attached to the barrel or containment bin for other non Division land management teams was discussed. RAC members spoke on the possible issues that may arise if we allow limited entry bear tag holders to have the option to harvest during the spot and stalk seasons as well (if their LE tag falls under one of the spot and stalk units). The RAC was concerned with the harvest of one singular bear now possibly being counted twice.
<b>06:53:06</b>	<b>Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33</b> <b>MOTION</b> The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by Amos Murphy. Passes 9 in favor, 1 opposed (John Ziegler on the basis that he thinks we should remove bear baiting). <b>MOTION: To approve this proposal as presented except for allowing the LE harvest to be counted towards the harvest objective quota.</b>
<b>06:57:25</b>	<b>Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33</b> <b>MOTION</b> The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Eric Reid. Passes unanimously. <b>MOTION: To buffer developed recreation sites and require that the bait containers have a COR attached physically to the bin itself.</b>
<b>07:01:42</b>	<b>6) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10</b> Darren Deblois presented to the board.

<b>07:02:00</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> The RAC asked if the sale or prices of green pelts will likely affect the harvest of cougars. RAC members asked for a breakdown on the total number of cougars harvested. The RAC asked for an estimated number of un-reported cougar harvests/mortality and how that may affect the overall sustainability of the species.
<b>07:10:05</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> - None.
<b>07:10:07</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> - None.
<b>07:10:37</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> - None.
<b>07:10:59</b>	<b>Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10</b> <b>MOTION</b> The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. Passes unanimously. <b>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.</b>
<b>07:11:30</b>	<b>7) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11</b> Darren Debloois presented to the board.
<b>07:12:11</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> The RAC asked questions around how many bob cat tags one individual can purchase. RAC members also asked what the estimated population is for bobcats and approximately how many bobcats are harvested . The RAC questioned how the market value for bobcat hydes affects the harvest of bob cats. The RAC asked how many individuals historically purchase bobcat tags as well.
<b>07:99:11</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> - None

<b>07:19:19</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> - None
<b>07:19:31</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> - None.
<b>07:19:34</b>	<b>Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11</b> <b>MOTION</b>  The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Kellen Hyer. Passes unanimously. <b>MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.</b>
<b>07:20:03</b>	<b>8) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64</b>  Devri Tanner presented to the board.
<b>07:20:24</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> The RAC asked if there was any data to support the theory that if the bounty on coyotes is raised, will we likely see an increase in coyote harvest. The RAC asked of the \$250K allotment for coyote bounty, how much of that is generally used. The RAC talked on how there are requirements for individuals who are planning to collect a bounty on coyote kills versus how those who do not wish to collect the bounty are not. The RAC asked if the Division supports any “killing contests” across the state. The RAC asked for reasoning as to why we are choosing to work with the Department of Agriculture & Food instead of Wildlife Services whom we have always worked with in the past. RAC members asked for clarification on how funds from the Restricted Predator Control are utilized for the state (i.e. how do the funds go from the legislatures to the DWR). The RAC asked if there were any thoughts on targeting known fawning areas as boundaries where if a coyote is harvested there, the bounty would be higher than in other non fawning zones.
<b>07:32:32</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> - None
<b>07:32:36</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> - None

<b>07:33:31</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC discussed concerns behind some of the science going into this recommendation. RAC members spoke on some of the theoretical studies performed in neighboring states on the removal of coyotes from the landscapes and what kind of affects that has had on their deer populations. The RAC discussed Utah's dedication to being one of the leading states when it comes to Mule Deer data and how that has aided the decisions being proposed. This data makes it apparent that predators aid in the control of populations and with the opportunity to target specific zones for harvest we will have the chance to really see change come forward. RAC members expressed support in raising the bounty on coyotes in targeted zones and how that will overall support the goals of the Mule Deer Protection Act. The RAC discussed the opportunity they have to propose decreasing the bounty for coyotes in areas where they are not as needed and in turn raising the bounty in the areas that it is.
<b>07:47:29</b>	<b>Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64</b> <b>MOTION</b> The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Jim Shuler. Passes 9 in favor with 1 opposed (Josh Lenart opposed as he believes it should be increased in specific zones and decreased in the non targeted areas). <b>MOTION: To accept the changes as presented with the recommendation that the Division looks to increase the coyote bounty in targeted Mule Deer areas.</b>
<b>07:49:09</b>	<b>9) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations</b> Rusty Robinson presented to the board.
<b>07:51:00</b>	<b>RAC Questions</b> The RAC how many votes were split on the decision to not have a season date for shed antler gathering neither for residents or non residents. The RAC asked for clarification of the state's WMA closures and why they are crucial to protecting our wildlife. The RAC asked if we had any feedback on why our neighboring states choose to have specific season dates for shed antler gathering.
<b>07:56:48</b>	<b>Public Questions</b> - None
<b>07:56:54</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation. <b>Public Comments</b> - Garrett Slatcoff (BHA) - Organization supports proposal.
<b>07:58:07</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> The RAC expressed feedback they received from biologists who support there being a



	<p>shed antler gathering season. The RAC expressed concerns surrounding unethical practices taking place across multiple states where individuals are harassing wildlife during their rest periods. The RAC expressed worries that if our state does not conform to a similar structure like our neighboring states of having designated shed antler gathering dates, we may see an increase in non-residents traveling across state lines while their home states are closed for the season. The conflicted opinions of if we are truly protecting our wildlife by enforcing seasonal shed antler closures, during a time when individuals can still be out recreating amongst our wildlife was discussed.</p>
08:14:25	<p><b>Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by John Ziegler. Passes 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Mike Christensen - no comment).</p> <p><b>MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.</b></p>
08:14:57	<p><b>9) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jason Robinson presented to the board.</p>
08:15:20	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>The RAC asked for more details on the elk translocation portion of the plan on the House-Tintic range. The RAC questioned if during the surveys there was any kind of inkling that some units ever ended up above the harvest objective more so than other units. RAC members asked if the change being proposed would affect the allocation of permits for public drawings, private lands or CWMU etc and how the hunt boundaries would be affected as such. The RAC asked if there were any studies going on in the lower density units like the Tintic to really see how the herd is doing.</p>
08:22:58	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- None</p>
08:23:02	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Sydney Lamb summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Garrett Slatcoff (BHA) - In favor of the proposed motion</li> <li>- Troy Justensen (SFW) - We are in favor of the proposal with the note that we missed the opportunity to raise funds to help protect and manage our wildlife by charging for a shed antler permit.</li> </ul>
08:26:13	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <p>The RAC expressed feedback that the majority of landowners in the surrounding areas were in support of this recommendation. The RAC discussed the possibility of collecting data on the deer coming off of Oquirruhs to the Swaseys and determining the</p>

	fragility of the herds there. The RAC discussed the issues surrounding the chance we have to remove the cattle or wild horses, yet elk and deer being removed from the area is not an option for us.
<b>08:30:31</b>	<b>West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans</b> <b>MOTION</b>  The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes 9 in favor, 1 opposed (Amos Murphy - feels there needs to be more studies before we make a decision).  <b>MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.</b>
<b>08:33:09</b>	<b>The meeting adjourned.</b>

**RAC AGENDA  
December 11, 2024**

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/4Eg1IvWSL0w>

- |     |  |                      |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1.  | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure<br>- RAC Chair  |                      |
| 2.  | Approval of Agenda and Minutes<br>- RAC Chair  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 3.  | Wildlife Board Meeting Update<br>- RAC Chair   | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 4.  | Regional Update<br>- DWR Regional Supervisor   | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5.  | Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027<br>- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Program Coordinator            | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 6.  | Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations<br>- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Program Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 7.  | Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33<br>- Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator            | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 8.  | Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10<br>- Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator                         | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 9.  | Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11<br>- Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator                      | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 10. | Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64<br>- Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III                                | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 11. | Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations<br>- Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator              | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 12. | West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans<br>- Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist-Tooele District      | <b>ACTION</b>        |

**Meeting Locations**

**CR RAC** – Dec. 10th, 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Room  
1115 N Main Street, Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/uiNEunTx8OQ>

**NR RAC** – Dec. 11th 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden  
<https://youtube.com/live/4Eg1IvWSL0w>

**SR RAC** – Dec. 17th 6:00 PM  
DNR Richfield City Complex  
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield  
<https://youtube.com/live/1U6-wGJ1LIA>

**SER RAC** – Dec. 18th 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/TidNSIV8o94>

**NER RAC**- Dec 19th 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources NER Office  
318 N. Vernal Ave. Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/QMBwPXcQu9A>

**Board Meeting**- January 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay  
<https://youtube.com/live/Ow4MtC-4Nz8>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Marshall Alford, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed For: 7 Abstain:1 Jaimi Butler was not in attendance of the last meeting.

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

2) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 as presented.**

3) Falconry Reporting Requirements Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Falconry Reporting Requirements Recommendations as presented.**

4) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Marshall Alford, seconded by David Earl and passed For: 6 Against: 3. James Carlson – Needs to be more in the written rule. Division’s proposal is good enough for me. Steve Sorensen- Not knowing what we’re voting on. Ross Worthington- States version is right. Voting yes to language that you don’t know is not okay.

**MOTION: Subject to nominal effects clause determination coming from forest or region that would specific barrels/canisters for baiting on Forest Service lands. (This motion is to state the Forest Service takes no official stance until a nominal effects clause is in place and final regulations are set by the Wildlife Board)**

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we extend hound season to account for road closures and add 3 permits to multi-season bear hunt on the Cache/Ogden unit.**

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R-657-33 with the addition of limited entry bear hunters to purchase an additional spot and stock permit.**

5) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 as presented.**

6) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Marshall Alford, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 as presented.**

7) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 as presented, except increase the bounty to \$100 in critical and substantial mule deer habitat areas.**

8) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Robert Dale and passed For: 7 Against: 2. Steve Sorensen- Not going against shed antler committee I was on. David Earl- Take care of Utah first.

**MOTION: I move we reject the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations, no season for residents and season for nonresidents starting May 1.**

9) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans as presented.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**  
December 11, 2024  
Attendance

**RAC Members**

Brad Buchanan – Chair  
Blair Stringham - Exec Sec

Marshall Alford  
Jaimi Butler  
James Carlson  
David Earl  
Robert Dale

Darren Parry  
Steve Sorensen  
Casey Snider- Online  
Ross Worthington

**Board Member**

**RAC Excused**

Ryan Brown  
Junior Goring  
Randy Hutchison  
Jessica Wade  
Nikki Wayment

**Division Personnel**

Jodie Anderson  
Darren Debloois  
Rusty Robinson  
Jason Jones  
Jason Robinson  
Devri Tanner  
Mike Kinghorn  
David Beveridge

Mike Christensen  
Sam Robertson  
Jim Christensen  
Xaela Walden  
Melissa Early  
David Smedley

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting**  
December 11, 2024  
Attendance

- 00:04:27**      1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.
- 00:08:19**      2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Marshall Alford seconded by Ross Worthington and passed For: 7 Abstain:1 Jaimi Butler- Was not at the last meeting.
- MOTION: I move we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**
- 00:09:05**      3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Blair Stringham**  
Wildlife Board Meeting to be held December 12, 2024.  
Link on website to view.
- 00:09:57**      4) **Regional Update – Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**  
Blair Stringham updated the RAC on regional activities.
- 00:16:50**      5) **Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (Action)**  
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>  
Jason Jones- No summary of the presentation for the RAC.
- 00:17:08**      **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- Trumpeter swan harvest. Location trumpeters are from. Able to keep hunting if a trumpeter is shot.



**Public Questions**

None

**00:20:41 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

None

**00:22:05 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 as presented.**

**00:23:12 6) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations (Action)**

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

Jason Jones- Summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:24:02 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Number of falconers in Utah.

**Public Questions**

None.

**00:24:31 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

None

**00:24:41 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations as presented.**

**00:25:28 7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)**

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

Darren Deblois summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:26:07 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Mitigating bear baiting across Forest Service lands. Identifying locations for buffers that indicate where bait can be placed. Municipal watershed areas. Exclusions on what can and can't be used for bait. Special uses in an area. Bear conflicts in Cache County and latitude for bumping up permit numbers. Bear hunting season dates and county road closures. Permit fees.

**Public Questions**

None

**00:35:45 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- There are way too many bears. Need to get a handle on it. Like to see the permit quota go up. Wildlife and livestock producers on the Cache are being impacted by predation. Need to manage bears more effectively.

**00:38:10 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Units that met their harvest objective. Depredation pay out. Sheep allotments. Seeing more bears than before. Number of bears harvested on the Cache due to depredation issues. Increase multi-season permit numbers. Bear season and the county road closures. Number of baits on the Cache. Spot and stock units. Allowing someone to purchase a second bear tag if they draw a limited entry bear tag. Season date changes. Forest Service is looking for clarity and consistency across forests. Not interested in creating a permit requirement for the infrastructure bear baiting might otherwise present. Looking for the state's management to satisfy concerns. Condition it upon accomplishing a nominal effects clause to determine when a permit is not required.

The following motion was made by Marshall Alford, seconded by David Earl and passed For: 6 Against: 3. James Carlson – Needs to be more in the written rule. Division's proposal is good enough for me. Steve Sorensen- Not knowing what we're voting on. Ross Worthington- States version is right. Voting yes to language that you don't know is not okay.

**Discussion on the motion**

Increase permits by three. Second bear permit. Multi-season permits. Season date changes. Road issues. Tag identification on the bait barrel. Sanitation and barrels being left on the National Forest lands. Containment sites. Nominal effects clause determination. Baiting on National Forest lands. Use of infrastructure and if a permit is required. Buffers.

**MOTION: Subject to nominal effects clause determination coming from forest or region that would specific barrels/canisters for baiting on Forest Service lands. (This motion is to state the Forest Service takes no official stance until a nominal effects clause is in place and final regulations are set by the Wildlife Board)**

The following motion was made by Steve Sorensen seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**Discussion on the motion**

Let sportsmen take the problem bears. Increasing multi-season permits. Number of permits. Harvest success.

**MOTION: I move that we extend hound season to account for road closures and add 3 permits to the multi-season bear hunt on the Cache/Ogden unit.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R-657-33 with the addition of limited entry bear hunters to purchase an additional spot and stock permit.**

**01:17:43 8) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10**

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

Darren Deblois summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:18:06 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Harvest on spot and stock. Definition of a green pelt. Reasoning behind the green pelt rule. Number of cougars harvested during the spot and stock season.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:21:56 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- Thanked the Division for the work they're doing. Supports the Division's recommendation.

Cody Bassett- Utah Trappers Association- Supports the Division's recommendation.

**01:23:28 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous .

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 as presented.**

**01:24:20 9) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 (Action)**

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

Darren Debloois summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:24:57 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

None

**Public Questions**

Closure on a portion of Franklin Basin and the justification.

Jim Christensen- Northern Region Wildlife Manager- Closing down a portion of it. Will leave the area open around the cabins and down to the highway open. We feel like we can close the area above that down and improve the habitat along the riparian areas.

**01:26:28 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

None

**01:26:38 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Marshall Alford, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 as presented.**

**01:27:44 10) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 (Action)**

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

Devri Tanner had no additional comments to add to the presentation.

**01:28:09 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Focus the harvest onto crucial mule deer habitat. Bounty fee. Decrease fraud. Location tags on pictures. DNA testing.

**Public Questions**

Funding for bounty.

**01:34:03 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- Supports the Division's recommendations.

Cody Bassett- Utah Trappers Association- Support the Division's recommendation.

Brandon Zundel- Likes the direction this is going. Doing an okay job for some areas. Majority of the coyotes may not be killed in areas where there are no mule deer. We are not doing enough to kill the hard-to-get-to coyotes in areas where it's harder to access. Need to incentivize people to get out and hunt where the coyotes need to be hunted.

Kevin Norman- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the Division's recommendation.

**01:38:09 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Reduce the fee for non-critical areas and increase the fee in areas that have critical deer habitat. Also increase it in areas that are critical for fawning. Private trappers on the Cache that target fawning zones. Need to get more data behind this. Like the \$25 increase. Amount of money paid out. If the budgets there, let's spend it. Effect on the rest of the state. Targeted coyote hunting. Not going to see a reduction in hunters. Desert harvest where mule deer aren't located. If we don't use the money we will lose it. Incentivizing the harvest.

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 as presented, except to increase the bounty to \$100 in critical and substantial mule deer habitat.**

**01:49:50 11) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations (Action)**

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

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:52:32 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Tracking non-residents through the shed antler ethic course. Separate season dates for residents and non-residents. Impacting residents. Don't support the recommendation. Clarification in statute. Need a non-resident season. Emergency closure provisions.

**Public**

None

**01:58:31 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**  
Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**01:59:02 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Does not set a precedent. Irritates me what Wyoming did. All of the other states putting in seasons funnel more pressure to Utah and Arizona. Number of non-residents taking the shed antler course. Didn't like seeing Colorado, Wyoming and Nevada closed; their residents are now coming to Utah. Turned into a monetary thing. We treat residents and non-residents differently in everything we do. I don't understand why we need to take the high road aspect of it. Tell them to stay home.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Robert Dale and passed For: 7 Against: 2 David Earl. Take care of Utah first. Steve Sorensen- Not going against the shed antler committee I was on.



**MOTION: I move we reject the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations, no season for residents and a season for nonresidents starting May1.**

**02:05:22 12) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans (Action)**

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

Jason Robinson- No additional info for the RAC.

**02:05:38 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Increasing elk objective. Impact of horses on the landscape. Number of elk on the unit.

**Public Questions**

None

**02:07:05 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**  
Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**02:07:26 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Marshall Alford and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans as presented.**

**02:08:06 Motion to Adjourn. Ross Worthington.**

## **Southern Regional RAC Meeting**

December 17, 2024

DNR Richfield City Complex

Richfield, Utah

6:00 P.M.

### **RAC Members**

#### **Attending**

Austin Atkinson  
Bart Battista (Online)  
Rachel Bolus  
Chuck Chamberlain  
Brooklynn Cox (Online)  
Russell Gardner  
Mike Grant  
Verland King  
Riley Roberts (Online)  
Chad Utley (Online)

#### **Absent**

Travis Duran  
Tammy Pearson  
Bryant Johnson

### **Wildlife Board**

Kent Johnson (Online)  
Gary Nielson (Online)

Paula Richmond

### **DWR Personnel**

Kevin Bunnell  
Denise Gilgen (Online)  
Vance Mumford  
Jason Jones  
Lynn Zubeck  
Jason Robinson

Adam Kavalunas  
Kody Jones  
Darren DeBloois  
Devri Tanner  
Shawn Stucki  
Rusty Robinson

**Public invited to join online:**

<https://youtube.com/live/1U6-wGJ1LIA>

<p><b>06:04:49</b></p>	<p><b>1) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson</b> called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and recognized the Wildlife Boards members that were present. He explained the RAC process and that there will be no live presentations. The public will be given the opportunity of providing comments and asking questions at the appropriate time. Encouraged the public to submit comment cards if they wish to provide comments or ask questions. He asked for respect and professional conduct from all those in attendance. The Wildlife Board makes the final decision, not the regional RAC's.</p>
<p><b>06:09:02</b></p>	<p><b>2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action)</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Verland King, seconded by Mike Grant.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>
<p><b>06:09:21</b></p>	<p><b>3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)</b></p> <p><b>RAC Chair Austin Atkinson</b> provided the RAC members and public with an update from the last Wildlife Board Meeting held on December 12, 2024. Encouraged everyone to watch the Wildlife Board Meeting.</p> <p><b>Questions from the RAC:</b></p> <p><b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> What was the rationale for not approving the one point for youth?</p> <p><b>Austin Atkinson:</b> If you add a point to all those youth hunters, it interferes with second year youth hunters. Just helping a portion of hunters unjustly. Debated, but they said no.</p>
<p><b>06:21:00</b></p>	<p><b>4) DWR Update (Informational)</b></p> <p><b>Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife Biologists:</b> Wrapping up post-season mule deer classifications. Busy with Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer and Pronghorn collaring projects. Conducting Christmas bird counts and winter raptor surveys. Continuing habitat work on WMA's to benefit upland and all wildlife. Starting turkey trapping, hopefully, snow will increase trap success. Turkeys have done well the past couple of years, we've had more conflict recently.</p> <p><b>Aquatics:</b> Panguitch Lake mostly capped with ice. (4-8 inches)  Hit and miss at other high elevation lakes, some safe ice, but access may be limited.  Low elevation waters – mostly unsafe  Fish Lake: No ice yet, wait until January at earliest  New species added in 2024: - Panfish, diversify fish assemblage, provide more forage and create new angling opportunities:</p>

Black Crappie – Newcastle, Jackson Flat, Baker and Piute reservoirs and Willow Spring Pond.

White Crappie/White Bass in Piute Reservoir.

Tiger Muskie: Address problematic species with predation and create new angling opportunities – Panguitch Lake, Mill Meadow Reservoir and Tropic Reservoir.

**Washington County Field Office:** America the Beautiful Grant awarded to UDWR on 12/02/2024 for “Restoration of the Santa Clara River and endemic Virgin Spineace populations in Southwestern Utah” for work in 2025-2029. Virgin River Gorge Barrier: Barrier is preventing upstream movement of Red Shiner back into Utah and was damaged during Spring 2023 high flow events. Repairs to ensure its structural integrity were completed November 21, 2024.

Drone Flights: Collaborative project with UDWR GIS team and OGM to get updated aerials at 7 long-term Virgin River native fish monitoring stations. Working on using ArcGIS to efficiently and accurately map instream fish habitat

Thank you to Aaron Brown, Buck Ehler, Todd Volkening, Maeve Stevens and Kody Callister.

**Habitat Section:** WRI project proposals are due January 10, 2025. Lots of meetings with partners to plan projects.

Fall sagebrush planting went well with over 360,000 planted.

Lots of restoration projects going on in the region.

Northern Corridor final SEIS released in November.

SR-18 trying out variable message boards to see if it reduces Wildlife/Vehicle collisions.

Last Chance Lop and Scatter: 1838 acres cleared on BLM, SITLA and private property. Maintenance of a historic chaining project with the goal to increase desirable sagebrush and understory forage species for wildlife and livestock. Completed November, 2024.

Fillmore WMA Habitat Improvement: Installation of 8,700 feet of new HDPE Pipeline along with the installation of two new watering facilities on the Youngsfield and Pioneer WMA. Installation of 7,400 feet of new fence within the Halfway Hill WMA. Partnerships – UDWR, BLM, Livestock Permittees, Sportsman groups.

**Outreach:** Youth/Beginner pheasant hunts were well attended.

First ever Raptor education night held at SUU – over 100 attendees.

Upcoming events and activities:

Bald Eagle Viewing Event – Rush Lake January 10, 2025

Hunter Education Workshops: January 31 – Richfield, February 01 – Cedar City.

Jackson Flat Reservoir Waterfowl Viewing Event – February 8, 2025

Snow Goose Festival in Delta – February 21-22, 2025.

	<p><b>Question from the RAC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> Question on Fishlake bubblers. When they shut the bubblers off at the marinas and allow them to cap over when there is still usable water to fish from a boat?</li> <li>• What are the stipulation on that? When will Gary shut those off?</li> <li>• It's capped over now. Guys are having to go over to Willow Bottoms and Joe Bush. There's still water to fish on now.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> I'll send a text to Gary and see if I can get a response.</li> <li>• The ring is starting to cap and the bubblers have been turned off. Will try to get more information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:30:29</b></p>	<p><b>5) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (Action)</b>  <b>Jason Jones, Migratory Bird &amp; Falconry Programs Coordinator</b></p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members.</p>
<p><b>06:30:40</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> The Sevier Valley and other areas in the Southern area have started picking up more Sandhill Crane. Can the Division talk with the Federal Waterfowl? They set that stipulation, right?</li> <li>• Doesn't think these cranes leave the valley ever.</li> <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> Represents Utah on the Flyaway. The Fish and Wildlife sets the framework for our hunting seasons. There are two species of Sandhill Cranes. The Rocky Mountain population is thought to migrate through Northern Utah where we have tags and then the lower Colorado River Valley population that don't allow any hunting of that population. Either that management plan changes and they allow some hunting or the DWR can prove that some of the birds down here are actually Rocky Mountain population cranes.</li> <li>• Working to put transmitters on cranes, which is a bit harder than you might think. We aren't going to get a hunt down here, but we are working on it.</li> <li>• We need to see where they are wintering. Right now, the Fish and Wildlife is only going to let us hunt in Box Elder, Rich, Uintah and Cache counties. Hope this can change in the future.</li> <li>• There is a policy for landowners for depredation permits, etc. There are some things to get Sandhill Cranes off your property.</li> <li>• <b>Verland King:</b> Is there a genetic difference between these two cranes?</li> <li>• You can't find one here, take DNA and compare it to what is located up there? What separates it? Just where they live?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like Mike said, there are getting to be a lot down here.</li> <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> It's one of these small populations of cranes that differ from another population of cranes. They're concerned about this species of cranes that is distinctly defined as (inaudible). They have separate management plans and objectives. One they allow hunting and the other distinct population that's recognized isn't as robust and they don't allow hunt.</li> <li>• Not sure how genetically different they are.</li> <li>• Have to get back to Verland on what defines the population. It's like the Trumpeters. They've defined in Yellowstone and another population is defined in the Rocky Mountain. There's no genetic difference in those populations.</li> <li>• Historical breeding and nesting qualities of cranes that migrate and live in separate location.</li> <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Regarding the Swan hunt. Do you have any preliminary reports on how that went? How many Tundra and Trumpeters were taken?</li> <li>• Did the hunt stay open the whole time?</li> <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> Kind of early to get these numbers on how many Tundra Swans were taken. Over 925 – 960. Hard to speculate.</li> <li>• Trumpeter Swans, just like last year. Heated up really fast the first week of November. Hunters were kind of scared and self-reported or came into a check station and staff reported.</li> <li>• Hunt stayed open the whole time.</li> <li>• There is hope on the horizon that we can see some change there. Takes time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:36:57</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Questions: None.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>06:37:04</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Comments:</b></li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)</b></li> <li>• <b>Question #1: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the waterfowl and migratory game bird hunting rules?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly agree: 1 (50%)</li> <li>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (50%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Total votes: 2</li> <li>• Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4</math></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> The only written comment wasn't really relevant to this region, so maybe Jason can answer this. It was about ADA accessible blinds on Utah lakes, specifically Utah Lake.</li> <li>• Sounds like you are saying if we have an opportunity to do something we will.</li> <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> That is hard. Everyone know that our properties are bought for wildlife management. They aren't parks. We can't really manage them like a park. That being said, Salt Creek and public shooting grounds and Farmington Bay all manage disabled blinds. Most of our walk-through gates are 42 inches and ADA compliant. They don't allow for some of the new technologies like power chairs, but with our Wetlands are different and difficult to accommodate requests for cement bottomed blinds at a great hunting location. Money, permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, etc. Great Salt Lake and wetlands are fluctuating, making it difficult. Doing what we can, just different from parks, our properties are pretty primitive.</li> <li>• Certainly open with the right opportunity and partnership. Doing what we can to accommodate everyone.</li> <li>• <b>Public comment: (in person)</b>  <b>None.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>06:40:40</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:41:02</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION: Passed unanimously.</b></p>

<p><b>06:41:43</b></p>	<p><b>6) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION</b></span>  <b>Jason Jones, Migratory Bird &amp; Falconry Programs Coordinator</b></p> <p>Presented the Division’s recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members.</p>
<p><b>06:41:56</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> How many Falconers do we have?</li> <li>• Do you have any concerns about the birds they take from the State of Utah?</li>   <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> Fluctuates, ebbs and flows. Right now it around 220-230.</li> <li>• Some concern, but the Fish and Wildlife allows folks to participate in Falconry and DWR administers that program. They can get a COR to participate in Falconry, they can get a Raptor Capture permit.</li>   <li>• <b>Russell Gardner:</b> Do they have a season structure or is it open year round?</li>   <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> Season dates largely mirror season dates for Waterfowl, Doves and other things. They have a more limited take, sometimes they’ll have extended season.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:41:58</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>None.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>06:42:01</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)</b></li>   <li>• <b>Question #2: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the falconry rules?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (100%)</li> <li>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Total votes: 1</li> <li>• Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (0 * 5)] / 1 = 3</math></li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Public Comment (in person)</b></li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>None.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>06:43:59</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> The Forest Service protects Goshawks heavily to the extent that we don't let (inaudible). Then we'll find out that a Falconer has come in and taken young from that nest. We've told lumber companies that they can't harvest lumber there because of that.</li> <li>• <b>Jason Jones:</b> Again, Fish and Wildlife set the number they can take from the nest. They apply through the DWR draw. We issue a permit to those that are eligible through the draw.</li> <li>• There are absolutely concerns. DWR officers work hard on Falconry issues.</li> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> If we know there are Goshawks in an area, do we withhold the Falconer from going into those areas? Or put a unit boundary on those areas where one can't take them? Then he waits all summer for the forestry then the Sportsman goes in there and pulls the Goshawk out. It's public land. Do we hold that out so the forestry guys are upset? Or do we tell them the Falconers is going to go in there?</li> <li>• <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> Yeah, we don't know their coming and you're not too concerned about the number of birds with regard to the Goshawk population.</li> <li>• It's hard to say we don't want you in there, doesn't know what the answer is. Difficult situation for the Forest Service.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> Administratively, it an awkward look.</li> </ul>
<p><b>06:46:37</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Russell Gardner.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION: Passed unanimously.</b></p>

<p><b>06:47:15</b></p>	<p><b>7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision &amp; Rule R657-33 ACTION</b>  <b>Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator</b></p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendation and answered questions from the RAC and public.</p>
<p><b>06:47:47</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Not a Houndsman. Memorial Day weekend is a big weekend. What group does that answer and is it right?</li> <li>● Three year season dates are going to match with that correct?</li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Memorial Day weekend is a big deal. The <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wanted to get bait in the field the same time as hounds are hunting.</li> <li>● This is a compromise was to allow Memorial Day Monday to be an overlap day. That's the last day hounds can hunt in the Spring, but bait can start.</li> <li>● Both sides are happy for now.</li> <li>● Yes, it will follow Memorial Day.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> Question about baiting and always proposing to allow metal canisters. Read in regulation that the barrels have to be fastened? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Did we specify how they have to be fastened?</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Yes, they have to be fastened at the site and removed within 72 hours of harvest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No. Typically they'll chain them to a tree.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> It does say they have to be fastened, doesn't say what type of strap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There can be a lid on it. No opening size specified or anything, right?</li> <li>● Would you agree this would be better to come from DWR?</li> <li>● Bait site tag or identification, that hasn't changed, right?</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> We have mirrored other states and their language. May help to contain bait and clean up the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No, they still have to stay with 10 feet of their posted COR. We've also had some discussion with the Forest Service about having a marker on the canister itself. Open to make some tweaks if needed.</li> <li>● Concerns were marking the canister and staying a half mile around established trailheads, expanding that list. Our language is not quite as precise as what the Forest Service would like to see.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>● <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> In the past we would give them a special use permit and then they'd get approval. If they combine the regulations it will make it more concise and uniform on what the Forest Service requires.</li> </ul>

- **Austin Atkinson:** How many bait sites can a hunter register at one time? What is the process if he wants to move his canisters?
- Was it ever considered to issue a physical tag?
- **Darren DeBloois:** Two at a time. They are required to let law enforcement know if they are moving their sites and clean up that area as well. They used to have to let us know and then register that site. It's first come first serve now.
- We've thought about that. They receive a COR when they register their site. There isn't anything that requires they mark their bait barrels.

**06:55:32**

**Public Questions**

- **JJ Brewer:** Two-part question. There are three indicators that move the needle on whether we should increase or decrease Bear permits.
- It appears that many of those units, such as the Beaver and the Boulder are hitting those indicators, which is a high Sow harvest. Beaver being 43% and the Boulder being 48%. How many of those units would you say qualify for a decrease like those according the plan the Division has come up with? Looks like almost 60% of those should have gotten a decrease.
- Second, knowing they're not getting that decrease, where would you say that push is coming from? Not to decrease permits?
- How many the DWR?
- **Darren DeBloois:** The first step the Biologist has every three years to set harvest strategy. On the Boulder, it went from moderate to liberal.
- When you change strategies, you can adjust permits up to 50%. Still look at those metrics, but the target changes.
- On the Boulder unit, that puts them at less that 25% adult male and between 40 and 45% female. You have an instance where one is in and one is out. Some flexibility there
- The legislature has expressed some concern about depredation and conflict. Asked our Biologists to look at conflict and on a particular unit where you have domestic sheep allotments, those should be managed at a more liberal harvest strategy.
- The Beaver unit didn't change, but it was already in the liberal harvest strategy.
- **JJ Brewer:** You are saying that depredation specifically on the Boulder is the reason it moved from moderate to liberal?
- Do you know what the depredation number was this past year on the Boulder?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Not necessarily that we've seen a lot of depredation, it's the fact that it has sheep allotments. We want to be careful not to have high Bear density on top of sheep producers.</li> <li>● We just have it by County JJ. Met with the producers down there, they maybe could do a better job of reporting. They're saying they are seeing some, but they haven't called UDAP to verify.</li> </ul>
<p><b>07:00:35</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)</b></li> <li>● <b>Question #3: Which best describes your position regarding the black bear proposals?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strongly agree: 1 (50%)</li> <li>● Somewhat agree: 1 (50%)</li> <li>● Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Total votes: 2</li> <li>● Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (1 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4.5</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Public Comment (in person)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>JJ Brewer:</b> Representing Utah Houndsman Association. Thanked the RAC and Biologists for allowing him to be there. Want to work together.</li> <li>● Five years ago worked closely with Wildlife Board, he as promised that no matter we would never manage off of politics or emotions. We would only manage based off of statistics. In five short years, that has quickly changed.</li> <li>● Example is House Bill 469 came into effect regarding Mountain Lions. Science and data went out the window and we declared war on Mountain Lions. Public's view/voice was more or less taken away. Hard not to see that we are seeing this trend coming into the management of Bears.</li> <li>● Wants to help the Sheep and Cattleman and if they are having a problem we should be the first ones to help them as Houndsmen.</li> <li>● Been told over the past two years that most Bear units would recommend a decrease. Over 60% of the units this year increased that weren't due for an increase. Why now are we seeing a big increase, when most units are going to liberal harvest when they haven't met those thresholds.</li> <li>● Using Boulder as an example, depredation was zero. Sevier and Wayne County did not have a single depredation on record.</li> <li>● If we are going off of data, that unit should have received a decrease. Wants to work together, but what message are we sending to all groups that is not based on safe management practices. We are not using the science and data to back it up.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot support the Division’s plan, or other plan that is forced upon us.</li> <li>• <b>Brayden Richmond, representing himself:</b></li> <li>• Sat on the Bear Committee. Went round and round on baiting barrels and containers. Some obstacles that were challenging to overcome.</li> <li>• Thanked the Division for coming up with this recommendation. Makes it so much easier to clean up a bait site. A lot of advantages to this.</li> </ul>
<p><b>07:05:05</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RAC Discussion</b></li> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> Are these recommendations to change them to liberal this year?</li> <li>• With the take of Bear, was there an increase in Bear population?</li> <li>• Going to that liberal status would indicate we are well above that population objective.</li> <li>• <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Yes, recommendations for the next three-year cycle. Based on direction that we’ve given to our Biologists.</li> <li>• Emphasized giving power back to local Biologists who know the area best. Social aspect here as well.</li> <li>• Told them to look at conflicts in their areas. JJ is right, we haven’t seen a lot of depredation issues on the Boulder. But there are depredation concerns there. Generally, Bear don’t take a lot of cattle, but can decimate a sheep population.</li> <li>• No, a decline in Bear population somewhat. In 2018, we had more Bear in the State than we’ve had in the last 50 years. Starting to see a downward trend in Bear numbers. With this recommendation, we would likely see fewer Bears. Moderate should level you out, liberal should continue to push that population downward. Light harvest would grow Black Bear on that unit.</li> <li>• We don’t have a population objective, so it’s the Biologist’s recommendation. Not like Deer.</li> <li>• There are management parameters, but based more on the Biologists recommendation</li> <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Is it the same Biologists that make recommendations for Deer and Elk?</li> <li>• If a guy comes out and is missing some sheep and it’s obviously a Bear kill, what does he do?</li> <li>• In that 96 hour window, can they call a Houndsman?</li> <li>• <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> If Bears are going to impact Deer, it will be in your Fawn production. In a high density Bear area, a Bear can take as many Fawns as a Cougar based on studies.</li> <li>• Less of a concern on lower Bear density units.</li> </ul>

- You have 96 hours if a Bear is hanging around, chasing animals and creating problems with livestock to handle it yourself. True for Cougars as well. We ask that they call the Department of Agriculture to get one of their trappers on site to confirm the loss. They can receive compensation if we can verify it's a Bear kill. It also helps our Biologists be aware there is an issue.
- Yes, they can call a Houndsman or do it themselves. Must be a UDAP trapper or immediate family member.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** It's the same Biologist that does Big Game recommendations.
- **Verland King:** Always bothered by Bear issue. We have no idea how many Bear there are. Percentage of how many were killed, male or female.
- Problem in his mind.
- As a Rancher on the Boulder Mountain. By the time they find a cow or sheep that's been killed by a Bear and try to find the government trapper and try to get them to come I, the 96 hours have come and gone. It's hard to get verification of that. Could have been the calf died of pneumonia and the Bear came in and ate it.
- Three herds of sheep on the Boulder Mountain. If a Bear gets into the sheep they can kill enough when the sheep herder isn't there. Seen government trappers, they follow the sheep herds around. Hard to get verification on a Bear kill for cattle.
- Doesn't have anyone in his family that has hound dogs.
- Hard to get verification that a Bear has killed cattle which may be why it's not reported. Different story if they get into sheep. We've tried it. It's just not happening when addressing the cattle. More to it than just there were none reported on the Boulder Mountain. It just hasn't worked out to report. Hard to get a government trapper there or ground is frozen. If you have a dead calf, you don't always know what it died from if you don't see any major claw marks or something.
- Starts decaying, maggots come, and that's when the Bears come in. When the Bear gets finished with it, there's just the hide and hooves left.
- Reporting is hard to do to get verification.
- **Bart Battista:** For Bears, are there any management objectives for a healthy population? Just looking at stakeholder acceptability for Bears?
- Not data driven? Just based on what the Biologist decides?
- What is to prevent extirpation if you're trying to if you're just trying to prevent depredation?

- **Darren DeBloois:** Mainly based on harvest strategy that the Biologist chooses. Based largely on what density do they want to see Bears on a particular unit or what direction do they see that population.
- Biologists decided what strategy to choose, then set up parameters they need to manage within. Every three years they'll look at that strategy and change accordingly. They do have parameters they have to manage to.
- They do have parameters to manage to even under liberal. Bears are more vulnerable than Cougars when faced with that kind of pressure. They don't have cubs every year. Something we look at.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** Bart, there are two variables the Biologists look at. The percentage of adult males and the percentage of adult females in the harvest. This gives us a good indication if that population is stable, decreasing or increasing.
- **Darren DeBloois:** Under a liberal harvest strategy, the tolerance for female harvest is higher than it would be under moderate. That's the driver of your population, how many females are being harvest every year.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Mixed feelings, tries to trust Biologists.
- Seems we're in a hurry to increase Deer herds. Concerned with Deer herds.
- The steps you have taken with baiting answers a lot of the Forest Service's concerns.
- Seems some people feel that when they get a 55 gallon drum, they need a 4-wheeler to go traipsing off road through the woods. We don't want to see that. They'll have to carry that on their back, hopefully empty. Fifty-five gallons of donuts probably.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Utah is very different than neighboring states. No secret we are trading some Deer and Elk on the landscape to have a robust Black Bear population. Wants to see a diversity.
- Doesn't like the idea that legislation or a legislature is going to put pressure on us to change our strategy.
- If a Biologist says this is what they want to see in their area, we have to give them that ability. Based on local constituents, hunters, ranchers, producers, etc.
- Going liberal on that is probably not going to show an increase in Deer or Elk that you could ever measure in short term.
- Struggles with numbers. We go off of percentages. The sample size is so small on some units.
- Just understanding the Black Bear hunt structure is very complicated.

- **Mike Grant:** We are already trending downward on Bears, why are we making drastic changes?
- All for opportunity, but let it play out for a few years.
- They can change it or add as needed. We aren't seeing that objective now.
- **Verland King:** That's his point. We are not sure whether or not we are trending downward. Relying on Houndsmen. Hunters are going to harvest the biggest Bear they can find, especially a Boar. If a female is big, they're harvest her. Age is being skewed by hunter.
- On the Boulder Mountain, the DWR is going liberal because of the sheep herds. If a Bear goes in on those herds, it can be catastrophic to that producer. We say we will give them compensation. That doesn't take into account everything they lose, like genetics.
- Likes the fact that the guys on the landscape, especially if they see a possibility of a severe problem to ranchers, sheep producers or Deer herds, like the fact they can recommend liberal.
- Likes the liberal on the Boulder Mountain, especially with the Cougars, they can really cause a catastrophic cost to that rancher.
- He doesn't believe the DWR knows what the Bear population truly is.
- Lots of gray areas.
- Doesn't like to see management mandated through the legislation.
- **Russell Gardner:** Been through the committee and Biologists on the Black Bears. A lot of time putting this information together.
- Thinks we should support the recommendations.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Do you weigh the percentages as far as male versus female, based on if it was a spot and stalk, bait or dogs?
- **Darren DeBloois:** Yes. A person hunting over bait or with dogs has a chance to look at the Bear and make decision on whether to harvest it or not.
- Spot and Stalk, a high percentage of females. Spot and Stalk is a lot less successful.
- Biologists look at all of these parameters. Houndsmen report what they are seeing in the field and treeing as well.
- If there's a unit that doesn't have a lot of harvests, we ask the Biologists to look at percentages. Less than 10% over three years, ask them to do what they think is best.
- Depends on the unit and the statewide roll up indicates a decline.
- **Mike Grant:** It is difficult to make a motion, just a broad spectrum to agree on.
- Doesn't want to mix what's going on in the North with the South.



- **Verland King:** Numbers are statewide and they don't have enough data to go unit by unit.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** They have on some units. Units with high Bear populations, the Boulder, the Book Cliffs, Manti, the San Juan. But a lot of them don't.
- **Austin Atkinson:** In our region, the Boulder, Fishlake increased. The one option is to make Bear recommendations specifically to the Southern Region.
- On the Boulder specifically, permits did not change.
- **Darren DeBloois:** You are correct. Permits did not change. Last year's numbers are not readily available.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Does that create any conflict with you, Darren
- **Darren DeBloois:** No. We had a couple of rule changes. One was on the bait barrel and the other was allowing a person with a multi-season permit to hunt during a harvest objective season.
- **Rachel Bolus:** Is there a way we could defer on the recommendations just to specific units?
- **Kevin Bunnell:** Certainly you could be make recommendations just to specific units. Accept some and not others.
- **Mike Grant:** We get into these separate units. Tough to make recommendations for the North when we are in the South. So diverse, different landscape.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** Read a message from Teresa Griffin. The Boulder moderate strategy would have reduced permits. By going to the liberal strategy, they were able to stay with the same number. They feel that they're in a good spot. That was from our Wildlife Manager.
- **Austin Atkinson:** We can make any recommendation we want.
- What sentiment do you want to pass on to the Wildlife Board? The motion is a good chance to do that.
- **Verland King:** Would that be the same reason for the liberal on the Beaver?
- **Kevin Bunnell:** The Beaver unit stayed the same. No strategy change. The Fishlake went from a light to a moderate.

- **Mike Grant:** Teresa said it allowed the permits to stay where they're at?
- How many more permits can we add with the liberal?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** It could be up to 50%, which would mean up to 40 permits or somewhere in between. They're keeping it the same. Could change over the next three years.
  
- **JJ Brewer: (Public comment):** Can that still happen?
- Can that change at any given time?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** Yes, this is for the next three years.
- No, we've asked the Board to let us keep things the same to see what's going on, unless there's an emergency?
  
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Are we talking about the permits or the strategy or both?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** Both. What we are recommending today is for the next three years.
  
- **Verland King:** Has the Boulder been moderate?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** It was. So this is changing it to liberal.
  
- **Russell Gardner:** So, they maintained the numbers that they had last year, but this gives them the ability to increase the number down the road?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** After this next three year cycle.
  
- **Kevin Bunnell:** Without adjusting the strategy, there would have had to have been a reduction. The change in strategy was meant to maintain where we are at.
  
- **Austin Atkinson:** Likes the numbers, speaks to what is happening.
- Small sample size.
- Out of those Bears harvested, 48% were females.
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** If we look at three year chunks, 50 Bears over three years. Pretty good sample size for Bears, people are selective.

<p><b>07:32:50</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Verland King, seconded by Russell Gardner.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Failed 4-5. (Opposed: Mike Grant, Rachel Bolus, Riley Roberts, Chad Utley, and Bart Battista)</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s recommendations on the changes to baiting regulations and other rule changes as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Passed unanimously.</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Verland King, seconded by Russell Gardner.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that accept the remainder of the Black Bear Management Plan as presented by the Division.</b></p> <p><b>Passes 5-4 (Rachel Bolus, Mike Grant, Bart Battista and Chad Utley opposed).</b></p>
<p><b>07:52:47</b></p>	<p><b>8) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION</b></span></p> <p><b>Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator</b></p> <p>Presented the Division’s recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members. Asking for two things: One is to allow the sale of green pelts. A person can currently sale a tanned hide. The second is to allow Rimfire ammunnition to take Cougars caught in traps.</p>
<p><b>07:53:52</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Are you concerned there are multiple people taking multiple Cougars? Seems like a small percent.</li><li>• Seems like a non-issue, taking about the same amount of Cougars under new management plan as we have in the past.</li><li>• If you reported that we took 5,000 Cougars, what could be done about that?</li> <li>• <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Very small percent. 99% of people harvest one Cougar under this new management strategy.</li><li>• We have regulatory control so we would be able to change anything in code. The big change in code is you no longer need a permit, only a</li></ul>

hunting or combination license to take a Cougar. The season became year round.

- If we had concerns over harvest, we could say you can't have more than one or two per year. We didn't recommend a bag because we felt like that was the intent of the language of the legislature.
- There are options on the table. Our initial strategy was to let this run for three or four years and see what happens.
- Cougar hunting isn't easy, difficult to be successful.
  
- **Kevin Bunnell:** The Board would still have authority to make or set season dates.
  
- **Russell Gardner:** Lions travel so much. Data shows that in Southern Utah a lot are coming in from Nevada.
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** We've seen one of our collared Cougars go to the Tetons, then turn around and come back to Utah, then one went to Colorado. They do travel quite a bit.
- Doesn't think there's a large risk of Cougars coming. Sure the Houndsmen can testify that it's harder to find a Cougar than it used to be.
  
- **Austin Atkinson:** Do we take age data on all harvested Cougars?
- It would not be accurate to call a Cougar in Utah a Predator, correct?
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** Yes, they are still required to check them in within 48 hours, we pull a tooth and age them.
- It is a Predator, there may be something in code that defines that.
  
- **Kevin Bunnell:** I don't think so. We have a Predator Management policy and the fall under that policy. So, under that management policy it's addressed.
  
- **Darren DeBloois:** Similar to Coyotes. We don't have management authority over Coyotes, but we do manage that program to address predation on Deer. Coyote hunting is open year round, no license needed.
  
- **Austin Atkinson:** Does the DWR have management regulatory authority to create a predator Cougar bounty program?
- Not talking funding...
- Trying to understand the designation between what is Big Game, what is a predator, what's non-game and where Cougars sit.

- That’s an important distinction for me to understand and people when they heard that Cougars are free game, like a Coyote. But that’s not true.
- **Darren DeBloois:** We could, that would be something the legislature would have to look at in terms of funding.
- I don’t think there’s anything in code that would preclude that.
- For general categories, a Cougar is protected wildlife. There is code that defines predators such as Coyotes, Foxes, etc. Generally unmanaged and have no limits. Cougars still fall under protected wildlife.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** You would have to have a fee structure and several other things set up. The legislature would have to be cooperative. But, there isn’t anything that would preclude us from starting a process that could end there. It just wouldn’t happen quickly.
- Some states define what a predator is. In Utah, we have protected wildlife and non-protected wildlife. Bears and Cougars both fall under protected wildlife, meaning that we have management authority over them. That’s an important distinction for me to understand and people when they heard that Cougars are free game.
- **Rachel Bolus:** Would the change in the firearm ruling affect the number of people that pursue trapping?

**Darren DeBloois:** Trapping is a specialized group of people. We’d like to see more people enter in, but you have to be good and have a certain knowledge base. Most people are not trapping Cougars. They have been catching Cougars in Bobcat traps. In the past, they would have to release them. That is no longer the case.

**08:02:24 Public Questions:**

- **JJ Brewer:** Understands we are harvesting approximately the same amount of Cougars. Do you know what that has done to the age class of Cougars? Like, 16 months?
- Generally, they stay with their mothers until 18 months.
- We are fortunate in Utah that we take a tooth, coordinates, we have age class and lots of data. We know how close they were to a sheep herd and what side of the mountain these Bears and Cougars are on. We know how that’s affecting everything.
- To sell a green pelt, where does that come from?
- Hoping trappers are saying this will help us and this is not being politically pushed.
- **Darren DeBloois:** Looks like we are seeing younger Cougars being harvested, which jives with the downward trend in Cougar numbers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, 16 months. Typically, if you are hunting Cougars, you want to take an older aged male first. Once that population dwindles, we start to see older aged females being harvest, then younger aged Cougars because those are what's available. Definitely and indication of where the population is. Where people hunt the Cougars can be fairly localized, may not translate state-wide, but where people are taking Cougars.</li> <li>• It's about international trade. Bobcats fall under that, that's why you have to get Bobcats tagged with a permanent seal.</li> <li>• This regulation has been in place for a long time. We are in a different place with management than we were 20 years ago. We couldn't find any documentation or any reason that we could see that if you could sell it tanned, then you should be able to sell it green.</li> <li>• Predators are controversial. Trappers brought this up and asked us to look at. Doesn't feel this changes the map a lot.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:06:24</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online Comments)</b></li> <li>• <b>Question #4: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended cougar rule amendments?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly agree: 1 (100%)</li> <li>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Total votes: 1</li> <li>• Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 1 = 5</math></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Public Comment (in person)</b></li> <li>• <b>Kelly Laire</b>, representing Utah Trapper's Association as well as himself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly supports the division's recommendation on being able to sell green pelts. If you are going to harvest the Cougar, you might as well utilize it. Not everyone needs another Cougar rug on the wall. Why not legalize selling the skulls as well.</li> <li>• Doesn't feel this will affect the harvest at all.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Layne Abraham:</b> Came to the RAC a while ago and asked that we be able to sell the green pelt.</li> <li>• We need to attach to the selling of a green pelt, that we be able to sell the skull as well. There is a market for that. If a Cougar is harvested, then he would like to maximize the resource.</li> </ul>

<p><b>08:09:06</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mike Grant:</b> Is there anything that speaks to selling the whole carcass? Does it have to be skinned, skull plate removed?</li> <li>● Seems like it may be a little unclear.</li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Needs to check code, not sure if it precludes the sale of skulls and claws. This came up in another region. A lot of the time those claws are going to remain with the hide. Can't think of any biological reason why you couldn't sell a skull.</li> <li>● The recommendation is to preclude the sale of the skull and claws specifically.</li>   <li>● <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> We understand the intent on why those protections are in place.</li> <li>● There are skull collectors, domestic beetle companies, museums, school projects, etc. that are interested, creating a small market.</li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Yes, goes back to the philosophy 20 years ago. We are in a different place now.</li>   <li>● <b>Mike Grant:</b> There is a little more money in the selling of the skull than the hide.</li> <li>● Depends on what the code says, whether we need to take out or add.</li>   <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> If you want to make a motion, it can be clarified at the Board meeting.</li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> A quick search indicates it's precluded unless the Wildlife Board says you can sell it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:11:43</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Verland King.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept as presented and allow the sale of all parts of the Cougar unless precluded by State Code.</b></p> <p><b>Passed 8-1 (Rachel Bolus opposed. Felt Predator control needs a lot of precision, feels the way it's moving there isn't a lot of precision. This opens up incentives without a lot of regulation).</b></p>
<p><b>08:22:51</b></p>	<p><b>9) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION</b></span></p> <p><b>Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator</b></p>

	<p>Presented the Division’s recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members. No changes with the exception of calendar date shifts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> All higher elevation streams, they’re not places where we are worried about problems with irrigation companies and Beavers getting established in ditches and those sorts of areas.</li> <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> We specifically look at conflict potentials. If there’s a potential for Beaver conflicts, we’ll look into that situation. We may do some artificial dams for example.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:24:44</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>None.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>08:24:45</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Layne Abraham:</b> Are any of those closure be suitable for Otter transplant?</li> <li>● Has a soft spot in his heart for Otters. He was in the Trappers Association when the first one was purchased and transplanted in Flaming Gorge. Never hears anything about them, other than they are expanding.</li> <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Not sure.</li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> These are not big enough streams to support Otter populations.</li> <li>● Since they were transplanted in the Green River, they’ve been transplanted in the Provo River and the Escalante. The San Juan is the main source of Otters through a transplant that happened in Colorado, is the main source of them coming into Lake Powell.</li> <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Could speak with DWR Mammals Native Species folks.</li> <li>● Not aware of any imminent plans to move Otters around.</li> <li>● Trying to assess where we have them, largely successful, but it’s tough to know how many there are.</li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> They’re well established in all of the tributaries coming into Lake Powell.</li> <li>● <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> So just to add, these three streams that Forest Service wanted us to propose, are too small. They’re too small, there’s very small fish, they would support an Otter populations.</li> </ul>



<p><b>08:26:49</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Public Comments</b></li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Question #5: Which best describes your position regarding the furbearer recommendations?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strongly agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (100%)</li> <li>● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Total votes: 1</li> <li>● Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (0 * 5)] / 1 = 3</math></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Public Comment (in person)</b></li> <li>● <b>Kelly Laier, with the Trapper's association:</b> Supports the Division's recommendations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:27:24</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:27:32</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS</b> The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain seconded by Mike Grant.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Passed unanimously.</b></p>
<p><b>08:28:10</b></p>	<p><b>10) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION</b></span> <b>Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III</b></p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>

08:28:18

- **RAC Questions**
- **Russell Gardner:** You are proposing to increase the bounty in crucial areas.
- Concerned with the designation. So much of the Pine Valley and SWD is in the non-crucial area.
- The crucial areas seem to be quite small and are for the higher country. Heard from other RAC's that 70% of the harvested Coyotes are coming from non-crucial areas.
- Deer migrate from the non-crucial to crucial.
- Should stay the same for both. \$75.00 for all Coyotes. Tough to get a Coyote and it costs so much for gas, etc.
- Is there a way to tell where they killed it is where they actually killed it?
- **Devry Tanner:** Yes, crucial for the Southern Utah area, 28% that were killed in crucial areas.
- Yes, there are crucial and substantial areas.
- **Verland King:** Looks like you're opening it up for someone to kill a Coyote on a non-crucial area, then take it to a crucial area and take a picture of it.
- **Devri Tanner:** That's why we initially decided on the \$75.00 increase for crucial areas and we focused on the crucial areas because that's where the fawning habitat is. Research, especially on the Monroe Mountain area, the most susceptible time for Mule Deer is during that fawning time. If we target Coyotes during that time, it gives a better change for their survival.
- In rule, we removed the \$50.00 cap and recommending \$75.00. We don't want to increase fraud, but we want to incentivize it more because we value Mule Deer. Based on research, the targeted approach is the most effective for increasing Mule Deer production.
- With the DWR App, there was a large decrease in fraud. There will always be some people who will want to cheat the system.
- To the point of increasing both areas to \$100.00, as a RAC you can recommend that.
- The idea that increasing the bounty we are hoping to get more people involved.
- We do want to incentive people, but not run out of money. Recommending slight increase and monitor from there.
- **Austin Atkinson:** You used to have to stand in line to check in Coyotes in 2012 -2013. It was exciting that you would get paid for turning in Coyotes. Inflation has increased a lot higher than what we are proposing here. Tell me where this App came from? Never submitted one through the App. Does it still exist?

- How did we do such a poor job losing our funding? Started out at \$500,000. Since we didn't use our cap it's now \$250,000? Are we stuck there?
- **Devri Tanner:** Understands there have been some issues with the App. Past year we having been using a new version, 123 through ArcGis. This should streamline and make it easier to report on.
- Working a lot better. Still a Coyote Bounty Reporter.
- This App will stick around for some time.
- Yes, \$500,000 originally, since we didn't use it, it was reduced to \$250,000.
- **Darren DeBloois:** We just weren't using the money allocated. Money used to roll over for the first couple of years. That is no longer the case. We'd like to spend that money and give a little bit more money for those crucial areas. If we needed to ask for more money we could cross that bridge when we come to it.
- Want to a bit careful and remain within budget.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** If we who we are overspending our allocation, it would be increased through the legislature.
- Fiscal year is July 1 – June 30.
- **Austin Atkinson:** What is the fiscal year? January to January?
- Is it the same for take as well? If we run out of funding in June, it will start again in July?
- On these crucial zones, map was great, but too small. Are these red crucial zones that are outline, would I see them in the App? How do I know? Go on the Utah Hunt Planner to see the map? Or wait until I submit the Coyote and wait to see how much you pay me?
- Is it the Division's opinion that these non-habitat areas? Two of the three were just straight up non-habitat for Mule Deer. Indicated no Mule Deer live here.
- **Devri Tanner:** From the time you harvest that Coyote, you have 365 days to submit that Coyote. Sometimes people will wait until the next fiscal year. In the past, if you went over budget for the year, the next year would be reduced to \$45.00.
- Currently, the there is a Mule Deer Habitat map data layer on the Utah Hunt Planner, which identifies crucial and substantial areas. We are looking at creating a Coyote map, which shows the \$75.00 areas and the \$50.00 areas.
- Based on map areas from Biologists, not sure what it would take to update these maps.

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** If I shoot a Coyote, is there a season for the crucial habitat or can I shoot it at any time and collect the \$75.00 bounty?
- **Devri Tanner:** We have a training that explains this. December to June is the recommendation because the pelts for trappers is best from December to February. Fawning happens in June, so you want to have it when the Coyotes have formed their pair bonds, but haven't raised their pups yet. They disperse in the Fall.
- Studies indicate that even if it's at different times of the year, it will be effective because Coyotes are territorial, so if you're killing Coyotes in that area that's repetitive over time then you're still helping those fawning area. It does take about 6 months once a Coyote is removed for others to come in. January to June does cover that six months.
- **Rachel Bolus:** That percentage of non-habitat to crucial, how does that relate to available actual available habitat percentage. Is the pressure the same in both? It could be that we have a ton on non-habitat so that's why that percentage is so high.
- It could be that we are putting more pressure on Coyotes in Deer habitat just because we have similar numbers or a higher number relative to what's available.
- **Devri Tanner:** Doesn't have the data in front of her at this time.
- Will make a note to look into that and get back to Rachel.
- **Verland King:** You're talking Deer habitat versus (inaudible)
- Coyotes will eat anything. They'll live off of cow manure.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** There isn't any habitat for a Coyote is what Verland is saying.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Does it say in rule that you have to take this Coyote by trapping or shooting? Can people turn in road kill? Literally any Coyote?
- They submit the kill and date through the App. Now do they have to submit the bottom jaw under the new recommendation?
- Do I get the jaw back after you pull the tooth?
- Can you check them in anytime? I've gone to a field office and been told "we don't have anyone to check it in". Are their specific times and dates, do you make an appointment?
- **Devri Tanner:** There is a specific road kill option. Rule specifies that if you you hit the Coyote, you can turn it in for the bounty.
- Yes, if we can just get the tooth to get that data.
- You can have the jaw back if you want after we pull the teeth.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On our website there is a time and location to check them in, along with a phone number to call to make an appointment.</li> <li>● <b>Bart Battista:</b> You want to incentivize to kill more Coyotes. We went through this a couple of years ago. One of the issues that came up was compensatory reproductive response by Coyotes when you start to take more. Are we considering this?</li> <li>● When looking at Coyote hot spots in the Utah Predator Control manual plan it looks like most of the take is in populated areas around cities along I-15 and in the major populated areas in the state. Seems like there's more correlation between Coyote killing around population centers – not necessarily having anything to do with Deer habitat. Are you really going to incentivize more killing of Coyotes in these areas that were already being killed.</li> <li>● I personally think this is a perverse incentive, but will save this for the comment section. .</li> <li>● <b>Devri Tanner:</b> There is research on both sides of this. Targeting Coyote killing can reduce numbers and help Fawns. But, then if you take Coyotes, there will be the compensatory reproductive response. Over time, if you're taking the Coyote in the same areas it can have a beneficial effect without leading to compensatory growth. That's why are recommending targeted approach.</li> <li>● Division's recommendation is to maintain the \$50.00 across the state as as increasing to \$75.00 within the crucial habitat areas. There are some side benefits of this program for agriculture producers, protecting dogs and small children, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>08:47:45</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kelly Laier:</b> Question on the App. When it's cold it's harder to type in all of the information with cold fingers. Almost impossible, he wants to get out of the area so he doesn't leave his scent there. Why do we have to type in all of that information, we should be able to put in our Customer Id Number, and all of that information populate.</li> <li>● The Apps, in the past few years haven't worked. Doesn't like the new App.</li> <li>● Reminds him of a slot machine, trying to find his year of birth. Has to go back a long way to find that year.</li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> Using the Customer ID number is probably something we could look into,</li> <li>● <b>Devri Tanner:</b> There is also an option in the App that you can set as your favorite answers, you can hit the "star" and then going forward it will</li> </ul>

populate all of that information. Will show Mr. Laier after the meeting how to do this.

- Will also look into being able to enter your Customer ID number.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** We already have it, you just didn't know about it.
- **Verland King:** Is that the 123 App that you are talking about?
- **Kelly Laier:** Yes.
- **Lane Abraham:** To go along with what Mr. Laier said. Hasn't turned in a Coyote for bounty with the State for several years.
- It's easier to go to our county to turn it in for \$20.00. Used to run Sheep on Monroe Mountain. When you are coming up to this critical habitat, what's the elevation that you're looking at? Where are you wanting people to kill Coyotes? The extra money you're willing to pay isn't worth the extra effort to go up to the top of Signal Peak for example.
- The fawning area is Big Lake. Hard to get to in the winter.
- What's the timeline when most Coyotes are harvested?
- **Vance Mumford:** The Monroe Mountain is very different from the SWD as far as Deer habitat. Very thin band around Monroe that would be considered non-crucial habitat for wildlife.
- **Devri Tanner:** Typically during the winter months.
- In the Southern Region in the past year, there were 137 taken in December, 106 in January and 46 in February. The next highest months were 52 in April and 64 in July and 68 in October.
- **Lane Abraham:** Most of the later one that are turned in are pups, people found a dead and turned in those pups. So not a true figure. They're harvest, but not harvested Adult Coyotes.
- **Vance Mumford:** We are trying to encourage Coyote harvest in higher elevations in Fawning grounds. So that would sometimes necessitate going up in the summer months.
- Hard to get people to participate, especially during trapping season.
- **Lane Abraham:** Point is you're going to have a hard time getting people to participate.
- Because we are going to trap \$50.00 Bobcats.
- **Kelly Laier:** One of his big passions is killing Coyotes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coyotes come down out of the high country just like the Deer do when the snow get four feet deep. Coyotes don't stay in the snow, there's nothing for them to eat and it's difficult to get around.</li> <li>● If he's killing Coyotes from November to February, it's really the same Coyotes that are going to be moving back up there with the Deer and killing them.</li> <li>● Agrees to a certain extent. Coyotes are not up there at 9-10,000 feet.</li> <li>● Before the Deer population crash. There were resident Deer populations on East Desert and West Desert. Do you think there's a possibility those Deer would come back?</li>   <li>● <b>Devri Tanner:</b> We would love to for more Coyote data to know if that is helping.</li>   <li>● <b>Darren DeBloois:</b> Some of the collar data on the Monroe show that at least the older Deer didn't move, they stayed all year. Not sure if that's true across the board.</li> <li>● Bounty Program is trying to get the public involved. We also have a targeted program, we work directly with UDAF and they're using thermal optics, they're flying very specific areas. Working with our Biologists as well.</li>   <li>● <b>Russell Gardner:</b> The SWD seems to be completely left out of this conversation. For a Coyote hunter to get there, it's going to take a tank of gas. If you see a Doe, you rarely see a Fawn. That either means she's not getting bred or the Coyote is getting the Fawn. No crucial or critical areas, unless it's a small area. That's why he suggests increasing the bounty. Deer need help, plenty of Deer there if you could get rid of the horses and predators.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>08:57:49</b></p>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online Comments)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Question #6: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to Administrative Rule R657-64?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strongly agree: 2 (100%)</li> <li>● Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>● Total votes: 2</li> <li>● Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (2 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 2 = 5</math></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>Written comment regarding increasing the bounty even higher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Public Comment (in person)</b></li> </ul> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>08:58:29</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>RAC Discussion</b></li> <li>● <b>Verland King:</b> Rather go to the county to collect \$20.00 than go through the rigamarole with the Division and the App.</li> <li>● Gets more satisfaction out of seeing dead Coyotes.</li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> What about \$75.00 Verland?</li> <li>● <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> We need to get more people to use the road kill App. That app works quite well. The app works quite well, but already has several State of Utah Apps.</li> <li>● We need to try to get the Coyote App to be more user friendly.</li> <li>● Feels \$75.00 is not enough. Budgets are meant to be broken. If we run out of money, it incentivizes people to try sooner or earlier. \$50.00 everywhere is fine, but \$100.00 is appropriate in crucial areas.</li> <li>● Inflation has gone up substantially.</li> <li>● People will take the path of least resistance. You can find a den on the SWD. Wants people to go up on the mountain on crucial areas to get those coyotes.</li> <li>● <b>Bart Battista:</b> People talk about how they'd rather turn Coyotes in to the County for \$20.00 rather than go through the State.</li> <li>● Does the heat map incorporate County data or just State data? If the DWR isn't incorporating County data into their decision making, they're doing it wrong.</li> <li>● Coyotes counts would be/are off.</li> <li>● Sounds like there are some deficiencies there.</li> <li>● The flippant disregard for managing to a budget in the State of Utah, is not appropriate and not what we should be doing. Not an appropriate use of government dollars.</li> <li>● We should be encouraging more County participation in the program, rather than increasing our bounty program if we want to be good stewards of our financial resources.</li> <li>● We are creating a market, we are trying to get more money. It's naturally aligning with itself at the lower number of lesser money being spent.</li> <li>● <b>Devri Tanner:</b> We only use the data reported in the App, but she can reach out to the Counties to get that data.</li> <li>● <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> The County does not require you to geo-reference.</li> </ul>



- **Darren DeBloois:** We do have numbers, we do a separate survey where we ask Coyote hunters for their overall take. We do have a feel County wise of how many Coyotes are taken. .
- **Austin Atkinson:** Bart. Coyotes are a non-protected, non-managed species.
- With regard to the budget, it feels like a loss on our part ot to use the money that has been allocated for the Coyote program. It should be maximized so it doesn't go away.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** To be clear Bart, our objective is to make the program more effective.
- Recommending to focus Coyote harvest into the areas where we think are going to be most beneficial to our Deer herds and survival.
- **Mike Grant:** We need to make it a substantial amount as an incentive.
- A year ago, Karl Albrecht promised the Sportsmen \$100.00. We are \$25.00 from that.
- Mountain Coyote hunting is a lot different than hunting Coyotes in other areas.
- Believes \$75.00 is not enough. Doesn't believe this will go over budget.
- We need to get hunters up to those higher elevations to hunt Coyotes.
- Should be able to simplify the App.
- Coyotes are easier to trap than hunt, because you draw them down into the valleys.
- We need to target Coyotes when the Fawns are on the ground.
- With inflation, we need to increase the bounty.
- **Austin Atkinson:** What if we said you could pay for your Dedicated Hunter hours with Coyotes instead of cash?
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Dr. Jim Brown testified before the Supreme Court when they were talking about banning poison. He said there will be two creatures left on the earth, both will be Coyotes and one will eat the other one. He wasn't worried about us wiping out Coyotes.
- **Russell Gardner:** Where is this money coming from?
- **Darren DeBloois:** Most of the Division's money comes from license sales.
- DWR does receive a block of money from the legislature that goes into a general fund. We receive a lot of money from the legislature, tax payer money. Authorizes us to spend up to \$250,000 of that general fund block

	<p>each year on this program. Legislature can limit the funds on certain activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> Are you sure it's general fund and not the \$5.00 on each permit?</li> <li>• In addition to that \$250,000, \$5.00 out of every big game permit sold goes specifically toward predator control and that's where we partner with UDAP for aerial gunning, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Verland King:</b> There's also a certain amount that each Rancher pays as well. We receive a bill for how many cows we have.</li> <li>• <b>Darren DeBlois:</b> We work with UDAP, happy with that partnership.</li> <li>• Try to help producers where they're having problems with their livestock, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> We are flirting with something that can be misconstrued as a negative.</li> <li>• Hierarchy of where we place animals, Coyotes are pretty close to the bottom. Not to say that they aren't beautiful, neat animals. They are.</li> <li>• Feels the program has become a bit stagnant. A refresher is good.</li> <li>• We are killing an animal, taking a life and this is why we are doing it.</li> <li>• <b>Russell Gardner:</b> Do we revisit this subject later? Do we vote on it every three years?</li> <li>• <b>Darren DeBlois:</b> There is no time limit.</li> <li>• Suggests we vote on it and keep an eye of how things are going.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> There is not set limit, comes out as needed.</li> <li>• <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> The SWD should be \$75.00 to help the Deer herd there.</li> <li>• <b>Verland King:</b> Can you pick out the SWD and not the Henry Mountains?</li> </ul>
<p><b>09:14:18</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS</b>  The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Verland King.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented, but increase the bounty to \$100.00 in crucial Deer habitat areas and 75.00 in non-crucial Deer habitat areas.</b></p>

	<p><b>Passed 8-1 (Bart Battista opposed, stated his reasons earlier)</b></p>
<p><b>09:18:07</b></p>	<p><b>11) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>ACTION</b></span>  <b>Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator</b>  Presented the Division’s recommendations and answered questions.</p>
<p><b>09:20:26</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> We aren’t going to limit anyone from Antler collecting, but we do have the ability to do emergency closures, correct?</li> <li>• Remind us what would trigger a closure?</li>   <li>• <b>Rusty Robinson:</b> The emergency closure would be tied to our emergency feeding plan. If conditions were bad enough to trigger and emergency winter feeding for Mule Deer, then they would be bad enough to shut down Antler Gathering. Not an arbitrary shutdown.</li>   <li>• <b>Verland King:</b> Hasn’t seen the DWR feed any mule deer in his area, other than the ones they feeds in his haystacks.</li> <li>• Is the closure going to be area to area?</li> <li>• Doesn’t count where they feed them in Northern Utah anyway.</li>   <li>• <b>Rusty Robinson:</b> It would be statewide, so one area isn’t being overrun. In 2017 or 2018, it was originally just shut down in the Northern Regions.</li> <li>• But you are still welcome to feed Deer out of the haystack.</li>   <li>• <b>Russell Gardner:</b> Like to see an April 1<sup>st</sup> start date.</li> <li>• Makes sense to start it when the antlers are on the ground.</li> <li>• Why are we tearing the countryside apart?</li> </ul>
<p><b>09:23:50</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions:</b></p> <p><b>None.</b></p>

09:23:55

- **Public Comments**
- **Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)**
  - **Question #7: Which best describes your position regarding the Shed Antler Gathering Committee's recommendations?**
    - Strongly agree: 2 (100%)
    - Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)
    - Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)
    - Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)
    - Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)
    - Total votes: 2
    - Weighted average:  $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 2 = 5$
- **Public Comment (in person)**
  - **Austin Atkinson:** Basically, the recommendation is status quo.
  - **Rusty Robinson:** No season for anyone until we figure this out.
  - **JJ Brewer:** Was there any data when we had those shed closures on the displacement of Deer and Elk? And, their overall health condition when we conduct those surveys?
    - Did we seem any difference?
    - Vance just did his study on how the Deer looked on the Monroe specifically. Fat study and how the Deer looked in general. If he said, they're at 7% body fat this year, that's our average, maybe we don't push them around in February, March because they're in bad shape.
    - Might be more of an indicator than the feeding issue, we aren't guessing.
  - **Rusty Robinson:** There isn't a lot of data on this. Utah probably has the most data on this.
  - We asked BYU to study collar information. There wasn't much of a difference in the distance moved by an individual Deer.
  - We don't know if that translates to lower survival rates.
  - Emergency closures go into place to be on the safe side.
  - Opening day at Antelope Island, all of the sudden you have 100 people running around in a relatively small area. We saw about a third of the animals displaced. Most of the animals stayed put, a third left their home range. Certainly with that amount of pressure there's the possibility of animals being displaced.
  - **Austin Atkinson:** Rusty, that emergency closer is the Director's call, correct?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rusty Robinson:</b> It's tied to the Winter feeding plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>09:28:22</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Verland King:</b> Agrees with Russell. Aggravating when you are going up the mountain with cows and there are big ruts in the road during those shed hunting seasons. People are tearing up the landscape.</li> <li>● Lives with an avid shed hunter. During the closed season, the only ones that were out their shed hunting where the ones breaking the law. When it was legal to go out, there weren't any sheds left.</li> <li>● Happy to see there isn't a season. Likes this recommendation, not sure what can be done about those that go out and tear up the roads with wheelers, helicopters, planes, etc.</li> <li>● Not sure how you could make a season for residents and non-residents.</li> <li>● <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> Knows you can't shut up the Forest or BLM lands.</li> <li>● Shed hunters are a major portion of the people in the Spring and they do tear up the landscape.</li> <li>● Gut feeling is there is some negative impact on wildlife, especially during the harsher winters.</li> <li>● Would love to see a season and not manage for the 10% or 20% for those that are breaking the law.</li> <li>● The Forest Service would love to see a date.</li> <li>● <b>Verland King:</b> By the time they tear up the road, the Forest Service 2 or 3 years later, makes a road out of it.</li> <li>● <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Concerned there may come a time when everything we do outdoors will come to a lottery draw.</li> <li>● Generally supports anything we can do to keep season dates, licensing, permits, etc. away from it.</li> <li>● Let's let people enjoy the outdoors.</li> <li>● <b>Mike Grant:</b> Agrees with JJ that we should look at this a bit more. Look at not just the closure, if we get to the point where we are feeding them, we need to look at the Deer and Elk. There aren't enough law enforcement to keep people from shed hunting.</li> <li>● Watched people come in after dark and leave before light. Only will keep the honest people out.</li> <li>● <b>Chuck Chamberlain:</b> Is that feasible? Do we have that data available soon enough to make that determination.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instead of saying you have to do it, consider making it a recommendation that they look at the data.</li> <li>• <b>Rusty Robinson:</b> Doesn't know where we would put that other than in the emergency winter plan.</li> <li>• We don't capture every unit, every year.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> Something we could figure out. But, it's not going to be specific to every unit. We just don't have that level of data.</li> <li>• <b>Verland King:</b> There's probably a unit somewhere in Utah that has that problem going on. If you area with less than 7%, you might as well close the whole season if you stick to that.</li> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> Hard to justify what you shut down and what you don't shut down. Lots of variable.</li> <li>• We are about studies right now, this should be one of them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>09:34:23</b></p>	<p><b>MOTIONS:</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Russell Gardner.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented, but in addition to the Deer feeding trigger, we evaluate the feasibility of adding a trigger associated with Deer fat and condition measured during the winter captures.</b></p> <p><b>Passed 8-1 (Verland opposed. Feels that during the last RAC it was brought up that you could do a study and interpret it any way you want. Believes we are getting too technical. We are getting into deep.)</b></p>
<p><b>09:40:06</b></p>	<p><b>12)West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans      ACTION</b>  <b>Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist – Tooele District</b></p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
<p><b>09:40:25</b></p>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Deep Creek Elk. You said we are not including the Goshute land. Is that included in your objective? What are you not including?</li> <li>• What is the relationship with the Goshute Tribe there? Do we have a good working relationship with them?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jason Robinson:</b> The tribal lands have their own herds of Elk, and is significantly higher than the 200, so it's basically public and private land, but not tribal land.</li> <li>• We are not proposing any changes to the management boundary. Keeping it status quo.</li> <li>• We have an open line of communication, a member of the Goshute Tribe is a member of the Central Region RAC.</li>   <li>• <b>Russell Gardner:</b> Do the Elk that come from the Nevada side to the Utah side, do you count them? Those that come from the reservation and back?</li>   <li>• <b>Jason Robinson:</b> Complicated. We do fly those areas. The Bulls seem to be right on the tribal boundary. The Cows generally stick to larger groups. We stick to the Utah portions, knowing there are more Elk in the area than we count.</li> <li>• We work with those different groups the best we can.</li>   <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Do these 200 Elk on the Utah side. Do they winter on the reservation or do they go East?</li> <li>• Interested in the Oquirrh Stansbury split. How are the local hunters receiving that ideal? Makes sense on the map.</li>   <li>• <b>Jason Robinson:</b> With the split, we've looked at the data for several years. There are definitely folks that are opposed and have hunted both sides of the mountains. In speaking with Hunters, they understand the Oquirrh and Stansbury areas are very different. Most understand why we are doing it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>09:45:42</b></p>	<p><b>Public Questions:</b></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>09:46:04</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Comments</b></li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell (Online comments)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Question #8: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed West Desert Complex deer and elk unit plans?</b></li> <li>• Strongly agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (100%)</li> <li>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)</li> <li>• Total votes: 1</li> <li>• Weighted average: <math>[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (0 * 5)] / 1 = 3</math></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Comment (in person)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>None.</b></p>
<b>09:46:14</b>	<p><b>RAC Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mike Grant:</b> Substantial portion of Utah.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Bunnell:</b> It's an awesome place.</li> <li>• <b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Excited to see the collar data being used to make changes like this. This line that we made several years ago, doesn't make sense, so let's change it.</li> </ul>
<b>09:47:21</b>	<p><b>MOTIONS</b> The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Mike Grant.</p> <p><b>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Passed unanimously.</b></p>
<b>09:47:54</b>	<p><b>Additional RAC comments:</b></p> <p><b>Austin Atkinson:</b> Concludes meeting, thanks all for participation. Wildlife Board Meeting will be January 9th in Farmington, UT where final decisions will be made.</p> <p><b>NEXT SRO RAC MEETING: April 15, 2025, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT</b></p>
<b>09:48:45</b>	<p><b>Motion to adjourn made by Mike Grants, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</b></p> <p><b>Meeting adjourned.</b></p>



## RAC AGENDA – December 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. Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 **ACTION**  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator
6. Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Jason Jones, Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator
7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
8. Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
9. Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 **ACTION**  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator
10. Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 **ACTION**  
- Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III
11. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations **ACTION**  
- Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator
12. West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans **ACTION**  
- Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist – Tooele District

### Meeting Locations

CR RAC – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources Conference Room  
1115 N. Main Street, Springville  
<https://youtube.com/live/uiNEunTx8OQ>

NR RAC – Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Weber County Commission Chambers  
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden  
<https://youtube.com/live/4Eg1IvWSL0w>

SR RAC – Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
DNR Richfield City Complex  
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield  
<https://youtube.com/live/1U6-wGJ1LIA>

SER RAC – Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main St., Green River  
<https://youtube.com/live/TidNSIV8o94>

NER RAC – Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00 PM  
Wildlife Resources NER Office  
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal  
<https://youtube.com/live/QMBwPXcQu9A>

Board Meeting – Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM  
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay  
<https://youtube.com/live/Ow4MtC-4Nz8>

## Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

December 18, 2024

### Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes.**

#### 2) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the divisions recommendations as presented.**

#### 3) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

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

#### 4) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 5-4.

**MOTION: To allow limited entry bear permit holders, who have not harvested a bear, to hunt the spot stalk season in open units.**

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

**MOTION: To ask the Wildlife Board to create an action item that asks the Division to come up with a plan to provide additional bear hunting opportunities on private lands that help meet management objectives and provide opportunities for the public. Those plans will be presented to the public next year.**

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 5-4.

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the plan as presented.**

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Brad Richman and passed 5-3. (No vote- success rates are very low on spot and stalk. It provides opportunity. AND because the motion included the North Manti.)

**MOTION: Propose that the bear hunt strategies and hunt numbers on the South and North Manti units remain the same (2024 permit numbers).**

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer and failed for lack of a second.

**MOTION: To keep the hunt strategies for the Boulder unit at a moderate and keep the Bitter Creek at light.**

The following motion was made by dana Truman, seconded by Scoot Flannery and passed 7-1.

**MOTION: Approve the remainder of the recommendations as presented.**

5) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept Division's proposal as presented.**

6) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

7) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 5-3.

**MOTION: To reduce the bounty to \$25 in non-crucial mule deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Steven Duke and passed 6-2.

**MOTION: To keep the bounty at \$50 in non-crucial mule deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

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

**MOTION: To approve Division's remaining recommendations**

8) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**

9) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

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

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

December 18, 2024

Attendance

**RAC Members**

Eric Luke – Chair  
Dana Truman – Vice Chair  
Chris Wood – Exec. Secretary  
Darren Olsen

Steven Duke  
Charles Fischer  
Brad Richman

Kirk Player  
Scoot Flannery  
Cash Stallings

**Board Members**

Kent Johnson

**RAC Excused**

Jack Cantsee Jr.  
Justin Ivins

Joe Sacco  
Sunshine Brosi

Lynn Sitterud  
Tyler Gilson

**Division Personnel**

Jason Jones  
Rusty Robinson  
Brandon Behling  
JD Abbot  
Joe Christensen

Darren DeBloois  
Jason Robinson  
Ashley Kennedy  
Ian Montgomery  
Tammy Ekins

Devri Tanner  
Chris Wood  
Dustin Mitchell  
Wade Paskett

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
Minutes**

**00:00:00** 1) Chairman Eric Luke Called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and thanked the public for their attendance and comments. All RAC members introduced themselves.

**00:08:19** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes.**

**00:08:56** 3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update by Eric Luke (Informational)**

Link on website to view.

**00:16:56** 4) **Regional Update – Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**

Chris Wood provided an update on Regional Activities.

**00:24:27** 5) **Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027 (Action)**

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

**00:24:40** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

None

**00:25:15** **Public Questions**

None

**00:25:25** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received. He stated that one person completed the online survey, and the comment applies to all the agenda items today so there will be no need to repeat this comment for every agenda item.

**00:26:10** **Public Comment**

None

**00:26:19** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

**00:26:34** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation as presented.**

**00:27:19 6) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations (Action)**

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

**00:27:49 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Reason for double reporting changing to single and possibility of losing any benefit. Federal reporting.

**00:31:03 Public Questions**

None

**00:31:10 Public Comment**

None

**00:31:19 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Amazing to see what the birds are capable of.

**00:31:52** The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

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

**00:32:25 7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)**

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

Darren DeBloois clarified numbers on the Nebo unit in the packet. The correct number should be 36.

**00:33:08 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Recommendation made for hunters who didn't harvest with the multi-season tag could also hunt during the spot & stalk. Only one bear permit allowed. Discussion regarding the possibility of having more than one permit. Possibility for making an exception for longer baiting times on private lands where bears have been a problem.

**00:37:46 Public Questions**

Cody Webster, Houndsmen Association – 60% of the units statewide should call for a decrease based on the metrics. Biologists not given fair input. Signs point to changes being driven by legislators and wool growers. Conflict in the month of July. Asked for graph showing the general statewide bear population. Trend based on back dating 3 years.

**00:44:30 Public Comment**

Cody Webster, Houndsmen Association – Attacks nationwide on our rights to hunt. Science-based wildlife management is a key factor, and Utah is running away from science-based. Asked for a decrease last year. Boulder had a 48% female harvest. Asked to keep as a moderate harvest. Bookcliffs bear population is down, possibility for boundary structure changes. Ask for a minimum of holding the tag numbers to last years. South Manti increases catering the same

interest groups. Spring would be the best season to target depredation problems, although access is limited in Spring with forest service gates locked. Keep with science-based management.

Brent Guyman – Comparison with deer and bear percentages and increases. Big jumps in wildlife management are a problem. Get back to sound wildlife management, not influenced by extraneous influences.

Guy Webster – Has represented hound groups since the early 90's. Not one unit in the state under a light management objective. The division needs to stand up to legislators. Increases are unfathomable. Possible changes in season structure when gates are locked on the Manti. There are other options besides increasing tags.

00:57:57

#### **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Possibility of allowing hounds through June. Neonate data factoring into changes. Drought factoring estimated trends. Preliminary data. Increasing tags with trends going down. Private land options and something similar to CWMU permits to resolve conflict and allow the public a greater chance to hunt. San Juan data. Reason for no light management units. Significant changes on the Bookcliffs. More focus on bears rather than neonates. Importance of not excluding public hunters on private lands. Possibility of action item being brought back next year if needed rather than waiting the full 3 years. Critical how we decide to manage predators. Hierarchy regarding management plans. Possibility for hunters to hunt spot and stalk in addition to drawing a limited entry permit if they didn't harvest.

01:35:31

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 5-4.

**MOTION: To allow limited entry permit holders, who have not harvested a bear, to hunt the spot and stalk season.**

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

**MOTION: To ask the Wildlife Board to create an action item that asks the Division to come up with a plan to provide additional bear hunting opportunities for the public on private land. Those plans will be presented to the public next year.**

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 5-4

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the plan as presented.**

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Brad Richman and passed 5-3 (No vote – success rates are very low on spot and stalk. It provides opportunity, and because the motion included North Manti.)

**MOTION: Propose that the bear hunt strategies and hunt numbers on the South and North Manti unit remain the same (2024 permit numbers).**

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer and fails for lack of a second.

**MOTION: To keep the hunt strategies for the Boulder unit at a moderate and keep the Bookcliffs Bitter Creek South unit at light.**

The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Scoot Flannery and passed 7-1.

**MOTION: To approve the remainder of the recommendations as presented.**

02:06:09

#### **8) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 (Action)**

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



- 02:06:40 Questions from RAC Members/Public**  
Current market for green pelts.
- 02:07:35 Public Questions**  
None
- 02:07:42 Public Comment**  
Cory Farnsworth, Utah Trappers Association – Approve and support the division’s recommendations.  
Cody Webster, Utah Houndsmen Association – Give cougars value. Leary of anything that could lead to devaluation.
- 02:08:43 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**  
What happened last year is not how this should happen but does not think that this action item is related to that.
- 02:09:37** The following motion was made Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: To accept the Division’s proposal as presented.**
- 02:10:18 9) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657- 11 (Action)**  
View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- 02:10:47 Questions from RAC Members/Public**  
None
- 02:10:49 Public Questions**  
None
- 02:10:59 Public Comment**  
Cory Farnsworth, Utah Trappers Association – Approve and supports the division’s recommendations on this action item and the next one.
- 02:11:14 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**  
None
- 02:11:24** The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Charles and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: To accept the Division’s recommendation as presented.**
- 02:11:59 10) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 (Action)**  
View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- 02:12:43 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Original dollar amounts for the program not all spent resulting in a decrease and efforts to capitalize on the full amount. Spending and flexibility. Concerns that coyote bounties have nothing to do with mule deer protection. Seems like a waste to spend money where it doesn't matter. Different amounts paid for different units. Biological value in keeping the \$50 bounty everywhere. Surrounding states offering a bounty. Possibility of reducing the bounty for outside habitat. Possibility for video proof to reduce fraud. Confidence in no longer requiring ears to be submitted. Cost benefit analysis regarding UDAF. UDAF appropriations received for predator control. Rule change taking effect and dates determining who qualifies. Clarification on rule change 64-9 using the word pelt rather than jaw.

**02:33:34 Public Questions**

None

**02:19:44 Public Comment**

See previous public comments

**02:33:48 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Incentivize the take of coyotes by sportsman. Potential for fraud regarding habitat bounty. Increase on bounty amount considering inflation and incentivizing the action with the money available. Funds spent in previous years. Reasons for drop in participation. Harder to hunt coyotes in the crucial habitat areas.

**02:44:19** The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 5-3.

**MOTION: To reduce the bounty to \$25 in non-crucial mule deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Steven Duke and passed 6-2.

**MOTION: To keep the bounty at \$50 in non-crucial mule deer habitat and increase the bounty to \$100 in crucial habitat.**

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

**MOTION: To approve the division's remaining recommendations.**

**02:53:33 11) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations (Action)**

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

**02:55:45 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Discussions from other region's RAC meetings. Clarification this being on action item vs informational. Possibility for closure regarding drought conditions.

**03:00:20 Public Questions**

None

**03:00:27 Public Comment**

Guy Webster – Thinks everything should be left as is. We're hunting elk through January.

Cody Webster – In favor of leaving it with no seasons. Seasons cause a rush of people when opening. Possibility for earlier season if necessary.

**03:02:45 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Should be willing to sacrifice for something that might influence the condition of deer and fawn success. The public is not in favor of restrictions. Agreement for closure with hard winters. No point in having rules when they can't be enforced.

**03:05:43** The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 7-1.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation as presented.**

**03:07:22 12) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans (Action)**

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

**03:07:45 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Clarification regarding the objective increase. Committee agreement

**03:09:57 Public Questions**

None

**03:09:58 Public Comment**

None

**03:10:09 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

**03:43:19** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation as presented.**

**03:10:47 Motion to adjourn: Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer**

**Northeast Region RAC Meeting**  
December 19, 2024  
Vernal, Utah  
**Summary of Motions**

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jake Huber, and passed unanimously:

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

**Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027**

The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Natasha Hadden, and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept as 2025-2027 waterfowl recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the falconry reporting requirements proposal as presented by the Division.**

**Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33**

The following motion was made by Richard Buhler, seconded by Rebekah Jones and passed 6-2.

**MOTION: To keep the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek/South bear tag numbers as currently and move harvest strategy to light.**

The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and seconded by Jake Huber and passed 6-2.

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division's black bear proposal.**

## **Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jake Huber and passed 5-3.

**MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division and include skulls and claws as also being legal for sale.**

## **Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Mark Chynoweth and passed 7-1.

**MOTION: To accept Utah furbearer recommendations as presented by the Division.**

## **Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jordon McMahon and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To target fawning season for mule deer for increased bounty payments as follows: December 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, \$100 bounty in crucial habitats, \$75 bounty in crucial habitat for the rest of the year, and \$50 bounty in non-crucial habitat.**

The following motion was made by Jake Huber and seconded by Mary Chynoweth and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the coyote bounty rule proposal as presented.**

## **Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations**

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

**MOTION: To support the Divisions shed antler gathering recommendations as presented.**

## **West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans**

The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and failed to receive a second.

**MOTION: To support the Divisions proposal as presented but only increase the elk objective to 250 rather than 500.**

The following motion was made by Jake Huber and seconded by Jordon McMahon and passed 7-1.

**MOTION: To accept the Divisions proposal as presented.**

Jake Huber made a motion to adjourn and Natasha Hadden seconded the motion, passing unanimously

**MOTION: To adjourn.**

# Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

December 19, 2024

## **RAC Present**

Eric Major  
Richard Buhler  
Mark Chynoweth  
Natasha Hadden  
Nathan Crapo  
Jordon McMahon  
Jake Huber  
Ritchie Anderson  
Rebekah Jones

## **RAC Excused**

Grizz Oleen  
Dwayne Davies

## **RAC Not Present**

Brad Horrocks  
Tim Ignacio

## **Wildlife Board**

Randy Dearth

## **DWR Staff Present**

Darren DeBloois  
Rusty Robinson  
Miles Hanberg  
Jason Jones

Devri Tanner  
Shay Farnsworth  
Randall Thacker  
Jason Robinson

Pat Rainbolt  
Tonya Selby  
Anthony Christianson  
Jake Greenwood

<b>00:04:34</b>	<b>1) Welcome and introductions by vice-chairman, Eric Major.</b>
<b>00:07:13</b>	<b>2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jake Huber, and passed unanimously:</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.</b></p>
<b>00:08:00</b>	<b>3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Major read the motions summary from the December 12th, 2024 Wildlife Board meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>00:14:12</b>	<b>4) Regional Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miles Hanberg provides an update of regional DWR activities.</li> </ul>
<b>00:23:10</b>	<b>5) Waterfowl Recommendations 2025-2027</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Jason Jones, Migratory Bird and Falconry Programs Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>00:23:41</b>	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions were asked regarding the area encompassed in the Uinta Basin sandhill crane hunt area. In addition, questions were asked about season date considerations for dark goose hunting seasons. A final question was asked about how the non-toxic shot regulation may be affected by combining species into one migratory game guidebook.</li> </ul>
<b>00:28:20</b>	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public questions</li> </ul>
<b>00:28:29</b>	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online.</li> </ul>
<b>00:28:52</b>	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public comments</li> </ul>
<b>00:29:00</b>	<i>RAC discussion</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Major recommended that the guidebook and hunt planner be clarified to show the Uinta Basin sandhill crane hunts also include portions of Duchesne County.</li> </ul>
<b>00:29:43</b>	<p><i>MOTION:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Natasha Hadden, and passed unanimously.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To accept as 2025-2027 waterfowl recommendations as presented by the Division.</b></li> </ul>
<b>00:30:16</b>	<p><b>6) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Jason Jones, Migratory Bird and Falconry Programs Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>00:30:36</b>	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many people participate in the falconry program?</li> </ul>
<b>00:31:26</b>	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public questions</li> </ul>
<b>00:31:35</b>	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online.</li> </ul>
<b>00:31:42</b>	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public comments</li> </ul>
<b>00:31:47</b>	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p>
<b>00:31:56</b>	<p><i>MOTION:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To accept the falconry reporting requirements proposal as presented by the Division.</b></li> </ul>
<b>00:32:25</b>	<p><b>7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>00:33:22</b>	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were a number of questions from the RAC. The first category of questions centered around bear hunt strategies and the various ratios used to recommend bear harvest. The second topic included depredation and nuisance bear issues. The last major topic asked by RAC members was the role of bear predation on Book Cliffs deer, especially newborn fawns</li> </ul>
<b>00:49:05</b>	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were several questions from the public focusing on summer bear conflicts, politics, population trends, Book Cliffs fawn survival, depredation losses, statistical data, and baiting.</li> </ul>
<b>01:20:35</b>	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online.</li> </ul>
<b>01:21:03</b>	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were several comments from the public that did not support increasing bear permits and advocating for permits to remain the same or decrease. Additional concern was brought up about summer bait hunts and how they may contribute to nuisance bear issues. Houndsmen also commented that they do not believe there are as many bears as people think.</li> <li>• One commenter supports the tag increases proposed for the Book Cliffs and spends a lot of time in the area and believes bears are abundant.</li> </ul>
<b>01:33:13</b>	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some RAC members did not see enough evidence to support increasing bear permits. There was discussion about the impacts to bear permit numbers in the Book Cliffs among the three harvest strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>02:00:25</b>	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following motion was made by Richard Buhler, seconded by Rebekah Jones and passed 6-2.</li> <li>• <b>MOTION: To keep the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek/South bear tag numbers as currently and move harvest strategy to light.</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and seconded by Jake Huber and passed 6-2.</li> <li>• <b>MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division’s black bear proposal.</b></li> </ul>
<b>02:10:24</b>	<b>8) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented by Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>02:12:10</b>	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is selling cougar claws and skulls an issue? Is there a demand for cougar skulls?</li> </ul>
<b>02:13:28</b>	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would legalizing the sale of green pelts incentivize more people to harvest more cougars?</li> <li>• Who is asking for the ability to sell green lion pelts?</li> </ul>
<b>02:16:44</b>	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miles Hanberg provided a summary of comments received online.</li> </ul>
<b>02:16:58</b>	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerned about the sale of green pelts will lead to the harvest of more cougars?</li> <li>• Concerned about profit being gained from incidental take of cougars.</li> </ul>
<b>02:20:03</b>	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not see an issue with selling green hides, claws, or skulls. Once the animal is legally harvested and becomes the property of the individual, it should be up to the owner to do as they please.</li> <li>• Not a difference between a cougar hide or a bobcat hide.</li> <li>• The sale of green pelts will incentivize more harvest on cougars.</li> <li>• If people are concerned about leading to more harvest, then it should be addressed by the amount of animals we allow to harvest, and not the regulation of selling green pelts.</li> <li>• The guidebook needs to clarify exactly what parts can or cannot be sold.</li> <li>• We need to keep tabs on if cougar harvest increased under new mgmt..</li> </ul>

02:29:40	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jake Huber and passed 5-3.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division and include skulls and claws as also being legal for sale.</b></li> </ul>
02:31:08	<p><b>9) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator</li> </ul>
02:31:36	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are bobcat numbers doing well? How do you count bobcats?</li> <li>Are the numbers of trappers declining?</li> <li>How much conflict do we see with trappers and pets?</li> </ul>
02:32:55	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public questions</li> </ul>
02:33:05	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miles Hanberg summarized the public comment received online.</li> </ul>
02:33:13	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public comments</li> </ul>
02:33:20	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion about trapper and pet conflicts on the landscape.</li> </ul>
02:37:45	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Mark Chynoweth and passed 7-1.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To accept Utah furbearer recommendations as presented by the Division.</b></li> </ul>
02:46:18	<p><b>10) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Devri Tanner, Wildlife Biologist III</li> </ul>
02:46:40	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you considered a more targeted approach in the coyote bounty program?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have coyote populations responded to the bounty program?</li> <li>• What caused the drop in coyote submittals after the program began?</li> <li>• How does the increased human pressure of coyote hunters impact deer when they are stressed at critical times?</li> <li>• Questions about fraud concerns with the bounty program.</li> <li>• Will \$25 more be enough incentive to attract more bounty participants?</li> <li>• What is the check-in process for coyotes?</li> <li>• Would the bounty budget support an increased bounty amount of \$100</li> </ul>
<b>02:58:05</b>	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public questions</li> </ul>
<b>02:58:16</b>	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miles Hanberg summarized the feedback received online from the public</li> </ul>
<b>02:58:24</b>	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comments</li> </ul>
<b>02:58:30</b>	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RAC discussed the benefits of whether or not to pay for non-habitat areas for deer.</li> <li>• Other species benefit from the bounty program. Pronghorn have likely benefitted from the coyote bounty.</li> <li>• Predators also cause concern beyond mule deer and include sage grouse and potential ESA listings.</li> <li>• Discussion about the need for time-frames for fawning and crucial habitat and the possibility to increase bounty payments in those crucial areas and times.</li> </ul>
<b>03:17:00</b>	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jordon McMahon and passed unanimously.</li> <li>• <b>MOTION: To target fawning season for mule deer for increased bounty payments as follows: December 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, \$100 bounty in crucial habitats, \$75 bounty in crucial habitat for the rest of the year, and \$50 bounty in non-crucial habitat.</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Jake Huber and seconded by Mary Chynoweth and passed unanimously.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To accept the remainder of the coyote bounty rule proposal as presented.</b></li> </ul>
<b>03:19:10</b>	<b>11) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator</li> </ul>
<b>03:21:15</b>	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How are non-residents tracked?</li> </ul>
<b>03:22:04</b>	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the ethics course still be required during January and May 15<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>How did the committee decide not to have a non-resident season?</li> <li>Do other states have different season dates for residents vs non-residents?</li> </ul>
<b>03:26:07</b>	<i>Online Comment Summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Miles Hanberg summarized the comments received online.</li> </ul>
<b>03:26:20</b>	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public comments</li> </ul>
<b>03:26:25</b>	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opposed to seasons. Opening days of the season causes more stress to animals.</li> <li>There are other user groups on the landscape.</li> </ul>
<b>03:30:40</b>	<i>Motion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and seconded by Natasha Hadden and passed unanimously.</li> <li><b>MOTION: To support the Divisions shed antler gathering recommendations as presented.</b></li> </ul>
<b>03:31:15</b>	<b>12) West Desert Complex Deer and Elk Management Plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presented by Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist-Tooele County</li> </ul>
<b>03:31:37</b>	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Questions about the increase of the elk permit numbers and where those permits would be increased.</li> </ul>

03:33:05	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions from the public.</li> </ul>
03:33:14	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miles Hanberg summarized the comments received online.</li> </ul>
03:33:25	<p><i>Public comment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comments</li> </ul>
03:33:27	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion about poor range conditions during the drought and whether or not elk numbers should be increased. Cattle permittees are not getting a grazing increase and often have to pull cattle from their permits. It does not send the right perception to increase by 500 at once.</li> <li>• Why are deer struggling in the West Desert?</li> </ul>
03:42:05	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and failed to receive a second.</li> <li>• <b>MOTION: To support the Divisions proposal as presented but only increase the elk objective to 250 rather than 500.</b></li> <li>• The following motion was made by Jake Huber and seconded by Jordon McMahon and passed 7-1.</li> <li>• <b>MOTION: To accept the Divisions proposal as presented.</b></li> </ul>
03:45:15	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p>



SPENCER J. COX  
Governor  
DIEDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Alyssa Hoekstra, Native Herpetology Coordinator

DATE: December 17, 2024

**SUBJECT: Variance request for Pawsitive Pup Vibes, LLC to possess non-native venomous reptiles that are prohibited by UDWR for commercial and educational purposes**

An application was received by the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) from Ashley and Luke Welton, owners of Pawsitive Pup Vibes, LLC, in June 2024 to possess western diamondback rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) for canine rattlesnake aversion training. A variance is required because western diamondback rattlesnakes are venomous and non-native. Ashley and Luke Welton have over 15 years of experience in the husbandry and handling of multiple venomous snake species. They consulted with a current canine rattlesnake aversion training business for snake species recommendations. They are requesting the non-native western diamondback rattlesnake due to their characteristic defensive displays and propensity to rattle which are effective for canine aversion training.

UDWR evaluated their experience, business plan, reason for possessing a non-native venomous reptile, safety protocols, handling and transportation gear, and inspected their holding facility with a county animal control officer. The number of individuals possessed will be at the discretion of UDWR and will be decided on factors such as but not limited to number of suitable cages, facility space, and business demand. The variance request is recommended for approval and allows the following conditions under a Certificate of Registration:

- Possession of western diamondback rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*)
- Transportation of venomous species for the purposes of canine rattlesnake aversion training

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Hoekstra  
Native Herpetology Coordinator  
385 370 1210  
ahoekstra@utah.gov





# Application for a Variance for Possession of a Prohibited Species R657-3 Collection, Importation, and Possession

A \$200 nonrefundable fee is required and if approved there may also be a \$100 inspection fee and Certificate of Registration fees. An email will be sent with instructions to pay over the phone. Email application to: [anitacandelaria@utah.gov](mailto:anitacandelaria@utah.gov). If you have, any questions email or call Anita Candelaria 385-332-6154.

As an applicant, you are responsible for complying with City/County ordinances you live in for the possession and numbers requesting. You must include a statement from the City/County that they will allow the possession of the species you are applying for. In addition, if a Federal permit is required, submit with this application either a copy of the permit or a copy of the application.

## **Applicant Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Species:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Variance Request:** Explain why you are requesting a variance (personal, moving to Utah from another state that currently allows possession, commercial purposes or other).

**Description of Holding Facilities:** Total number allowed will be based on the enclosure size and will be determined by the Division based on the submitted facility description and dimensions. Housing must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare standards. Photos of enclosure can be emailed with this application. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

**Animal Care:** Must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare Standards. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

**Education/Conservation Message (if applicable):** (If additional space is needed include with the application).

**Supplier Information or if currently in possession where did you get the animal from:**

I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with R657-3. I further certify the information submitted in this application for for a variance is complete and accurate.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DIEDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Alyssa Hoekstra, Native Herpetology Coordinator

DATE: December 17, 2024

**SUBJECT: Variance request for Scales and Tails Utah to possess and exhibit non-native venomous reptiles that are prohibited by UDWR for commercial and educational purposes**

A proposal was received by the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) from Rindy and M. Shane Richins, owners of Scales and Tails Utah, in August 2024 with the request to expand their current venomous reptile collection to include the possession of the following species: copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), and beaded lizard (*Heloderma horridum*). A variance is required because all three (3) species are venomous and non-native. Rindy and M. Shane Richins have over 15 years of experience in the husbandry and handling of multiple venomous reptile species. These species will be on display in their venom room to demonstrate proper handling and educating the public on their conservation. They will also transport these species for educational purposes and will use the equipment and caging required to perform their duties with appropriate safety precautions while traveling and displaying them.

UDWR evaluated their experience, business plan, reason for possessing non-native venomous reptiles, safety protocols, handling and transportation gear, and inspected their holding facility. All three (3) species requested are lesser or equivalent in venom toxicity to other venomous reptile species currently in their possession and on exhibit. The number of individuals possessed of each species will be at the discretion of UDWR and will be decided on factors such as but not limited to number of suitable cages, facility space, and business demand. The variance request is recommended for approval and allows the following conditions under a Certificate of Registration:

- Possession of the following venomous reptile species: copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*), cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus*), and beaded lizard (*Heloderma horridum*)
- Transportation of venomous species for the purposes of conservation education

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Hoekstra  
Native Herpetology Coordinator  
385 370 1210  
ahoekstra@utah.gov



# Application for a Variance for Possession of a Prohibited Species R657-3 Collection, Importation, and Possession

A \$200 nonrefundable fee is required and if approved there may also be a \$100 inspection fee and Certificate of Registration fees. An email will be sent with instructions to pay over the phone. Email application to: [anitacandelaria@utah.gov](mailto:anitacandelaria@utah.gov). If you have, any questions email or call Anita Candelaria 385-332-6154.e

As an applicant, you are responsible for complying with City/County ordinances you live in for the possession and numbers requesting. You must include a statement from the City/County that they will allow the possession of the species you are applying for. In addition, if a Federal permit is required, submit with this application either a copy of the permit or a copy of the application.

### Applicant Information

Name: RINDY RICHINS Business Name: SCALES & TAILS UTAH

Phone #: 801-577-7182 Email: rindy@scalesandtailsutah.com

Address: 4944 W. 6200 S. City: Kearns State: UT Zip: 84118

Species: REPTILES Total Number: 5

- <sup>1</sup> Copperhead
- <sup>2</sup> Cottonmouth
- <sup>3</sup> Beaded Lizard
- <sup>4</sup> ~~Gila Monster~~
- <sup>5</sup> ~~Woodhouse Toad~~

No variance is required for gila monster and Woodhouse's toad

12/17/2024

**Variance Request:** Explain why you are requesting a variance (personal, moving to Utah from another state that currently allows possession, commercial purposes or other).

Expanding our current venomous collection. Venomous is a big attraction and that is great for getting our foot in the door for conversations about everything from zoology to ecology to conservation and even medicine because of the links between venom and medication.

**Description of Holding Facilities:** Total number allowed will be based on the enclosure size and will be determined by the Division based on the submitted facility description and dimensions. Housing must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare standards. Photos of enclosure can be emailed with this application. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

We have a venom room with glass walls and appropriately sized enclosures within that room. At our traveling displays we have locked enclosures with dual layered mesh and polycarbonate windows to insure the glass can not break even under extreme circumstances. We also keep the travel display under constant supervision as long as the public has access to it.

**Animal Care:** Must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare Standards. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

- Enclosure at least as long and half as wide as the snake
- Controlled temps with a hot spot
- Proper ventilation
- Securable cage access point
- Clean water, regularly replaced

**Education/Conservation Message (if applicable):** (If additional space is needed include with the application).

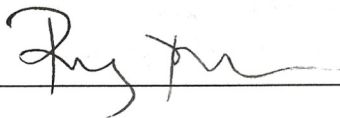
- Venomous is not a good reason to destroy wildlife
- Venom benefits medicine.
- Venomous animals are keystone species that are essential to their environment
- Human safety when in venomous snake habitat
- What to do in case of envenomation
- Appreciation for Americas wildlife

**Supplier Information or if currently in possession where did you get the animal from:**

- We will be looking into options for captive bred specimens or at least animals that are already in captivity. We have not yet sourced our supplier.

I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with R657-3. I further certify the information submitted in this application for a variance is complete and accurate.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12/11/24

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-5. Taking Big Game.**

**R657-5-1. Purpose and Authority.**

- (1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established:
- (a) this rule for taking deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat.
  - (b) appropriate weapons or devices to take big game and restrictions to weapons or devices to take big game.
- (2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

**R657-5-48. Restricted Weapons Hunt.**

- (1)(a) The Wildlife Board may prescribe Restricted Weapon Type hunts for any big game species.
- (b) A person who has obtained a Restricted Weapon Type permit may not hunt within Cooperative Wildlife Management unit areas.
- (c) A person who has obtained a Restricted Weapon Type permit may only hunt within the unit specified on the permit and no other general season, limited entry, or premium limited units, except as provided by the Wildlife Board in the guidebooks for big game.
- (d) A permit issued for a Restricted Weapon Type season identified in Subsection (1)(a) allows a person to take a species designated on the permit within the area, during the season dates, and using the weapon type described in Subsections (2) through (6) and specified on the permit.
- (2) "Restricted Archery Equipment" means archery equipment as detailed in Subsections R657-5-11(1) through (3) with the following restrictions:
- (a) must be a single stringed long bow or recurve bow with no cables, pulleys or cams;
  - (b) has no sights; and
  - (c) has a draw weight of 40 pounds or more.
- (3) "Restricted Muzzleloader Equipment" means muzzleloader equipment as detailed in Subsections R657-5-10(1) and (2) with the following restrictions:
- (a) the ignition system is limited to traditional flintlock, wheellock, matchlock, musket cap, or percussion cap ~~which must be entirely visible when the hammer is drawn back.~~ All other ignition systems, including 209 primers, are prohibited; and
  - (b) contains only open sights or peep sights.
- (4) "Restricted Rifle Equipment" means a rifle as detailed in Subsection R657-5-8(1) with the following exceptions:
- (a) contains only open sights or peeps sights; and
  - (b) cannot be semi-automatic.
- (5) Restricted Archery permits may not be used on an extended archery hunt.
- (6) A person who has obtained an any weapon permit for big game may use any restricted weapon authorized in this section to take the species authorized on the permit.
- (7) Electronic communication to receive real-time information on hunter or game location to aid in the stalking of a specific big game animal is prohibited on a restricted weapon hunt.

**KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons**

**Date of Last Change: August 21, 2024**

**Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 23A-11-201; 23A-11-202**