# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

**May 1, 2025 Eccles Wildlife Education Center**
**1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah**
The Board Meeting will stream live at https://youtube.com/live/bAdTp2I2E_I

## AGENDA

**Thursday, May 1, 2025, 9:00 A.M.**

1. Approval of Agenda — **ACTION**
   – Randy Dearth, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes — **ACTION**
   – Randy Dearth, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log — **CONTINGENT**
   – Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman

4. DWR Update — **INFORMATIONAL**
   – Riley Peck, DWR Director

5. Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments — **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

6. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 — **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 — **ACTION**
   - Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator

8. Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 — **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

9. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 — **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

10. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 — **ACTION**
    - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

11. 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations — **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

12. Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments — **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

13. Expo Rule Amendments — **ACTION**
    - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief

14. West Willow Creek CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendation — **ACTION**
    Hiawatha CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendation
    Preston Nutter Ranch Buck and Bull Recommendation
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

15. Other Business — **CONTINGENT**
    – Randy Dearth, Chairman

***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 801-450-3093, giving her at least five working days notice.***

**Wildlife Board Action Log**

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

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

Winter 2025 – Target Date – Bear Baiting on Private Land during Harvest Objective

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at the possibility of bear baiting during harvest-objective on private lands and to include the possibility of additional public opportunities. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: January 9, 2025

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

**January 9, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center**
**1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025**

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

***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***

Draft 1/9/2025

**Wildlife Board Motions**

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

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: 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 to be 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 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

– Target Date –

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at the possibility of bear baiting during harvest-objective on private lands, and to include the possibility of additional public opportunities. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to:
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: January 9, 2025

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**
January 9, 2025, 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 Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

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

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Waterfowl Recommendations for the 2025-2027 as presented by the Division.**

4) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we add 3 multiseason tags to the Cache/Ogden unit.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we allow the multiseason permit holders to hunt during the spot and stalk season (if they are unsuccessful), and to not count the harvest against the harvest quota.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at the possibility of bear baiting during the harvest objective on private lands, and to include the possibility of additional public opportunities. This is to be placed on the Action Log.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the recommendations as presented by the Division.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-11 as presented by the Division.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 as presented by the Division.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 as presented by the Division.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

10) West Desert Complex Management Plans **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the West Desert Complex Management Plans as presented by the Division.**

11) Prohibited Species Variance Requests1 **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Prohibited Species Variance Requests as presented by the Division.**

12) Restricted Muzzleloader Definition Clarification **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Restricted Muzzleloader Definition clarification as presented by the Division.**

13) Other Business **(Contingent)**

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**
January 9, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025

Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Randy Dearth – Chairman
Gary Nielson – Vice-Chairman
Ashley Green –Acting Executive Secretary
Kent Johnson
Paula Richmond
Bret Selman
Bryce Thurgood

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Mike Christensen
Northeastern – Grizz Oleen
Northern – Brad Buchanan
Southeastern – Eric Luke
Southern – Austin Atkinson

Justin Shannon
Mike Canning
Miles Hanberg
Kevin Bunnell
Blair Stringham
Chris Wood
Jason Vernon
Riley Peck
Covy Jones
Dax Mangus
Dallon Christensen
Seth Magers
Mike Christensen
Staci Coons
Paige Wiren
Charles Lyons
Lindy Varney
Teresa Griffin
Jim Christensen
Jason Jones
Chad Bettridge
Randy Oplinger
Jason Robinson
Rusty Robinson
Devri Tanner
Sydney Lamb
Mark Martinez
Kenny Johnson
Alyssa Hoekstra
Dustin Mitchell
Bryan Christensen
Hayley Pace

**Public Present**

Troy Justensen
Angie Wonnacott
Chad Edgington
Troy Henrie
Colby Pace
David Earl
Lynne Anderson
Cory Huntsman
Sunday Hunt
Sierra Nelson
Myron Richins
Amy Okelberry
Cole Selman
Kirk Robinson
Billie Larson
Cody Bassett

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**
January 9, 2025, DNR Auditorium
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025
https://www.youtube.com/live/Ow4MtC-4Nz8

**00:04:57** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, read the meeting guidelines, and asked the Board and RAC chairs to introduce themselves.

**00:08:02** **1) Approval of Agenda** (Action)

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

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

**00:08:42** **2) Approval of Minutes** (Action)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 12, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.**

**00:09:22** **3) Old Business/Action Log** (Contingent)

Vice-Chairman Nielson noted that several of the Action Log items were on the day's agenda.
Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator Bryan Christensen gave a presentation that addressed the Wildlife Board's request to the Division to look into participants of the Dedicated Hunter Program being able to bank their program service hours.

Vice-Chairman Nielson noted which Action Log items would be addressed in the meeting.

**00:19:33** **4) DWR Update** (Informational)

Deputy Director Ashley Green gave updates on all the Division sections: Administrative Services, Aquatic, Conservation Outreach, Habitat, Law Enforcement and Wildlife.

**00:28:14** **5) Waterfowl Recommendations** (Action)

Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator Jason Jones noted a correction to the presentation that was posted on the Division's website.

**00:29:34** **Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked about the possibility of creating a sandhill crane hunt in the central part of the state, or expanding sandhill cranes in the state in general, and asked how long the process was for creating the current sandhill crane hunts.

**00:32:02** **Public Input**

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

**00:33:00 RAC Summaries**

All RACs unanimously passed the Waterfowl Recommendations.

**00:34:38 Public Comments**

There were no public comments submitted for this agenda item.

**00:34:41 Board Discussion**

The Board asked Jason to address the public concern about ADA-compliant waterfowl hunting blinds on public hunting grounds.

The Board asked about the RAC motions which moved to combine all birds into one guidebook, and also voiced support for having all species that require harvest information program registration in one book. The Board shared an online question from a member of the public about hunting scaup.

The Board shared a thought about how easy it is to look up hunting rules, by species, online.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Waterfowl Recommendations for 2025-2027 as presented by the Division.**

**00:41:45 6) Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations** (Action)

Migratory Bird & Falconry Programs Coordinator Jason Jones had no additional information to share about the presentation that was posted on the Division's website.

**00:41:56 Board/RAC Questions**

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

**00:42:01 Public Input**

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

**00:42:47 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

**00:43:45 RAC Summaries**

All RACs unanimously passed the Falconry Reporting Requirement Recommendations.

**00:44:22 Board Discussion and Questions**

There was no further discussion from the Board.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Falconry Reporting Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**00:45:50 7) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33** (Action)

Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois updated the initial recommendations based on strategies that were suggested during the December RAC tour, and noted a typo that was published in the RAC packet.

**00:50:37 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked the Division to clarify bear barrel recommendations.

The Board asked about bear baiting private lands during harvest-objecting, and suggested putting that topic on the Action Log.

The Central RAC asked if their recommendations were considered in the changes the Division made after the RAC tour.

**00:53:39 Public Input**

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

**00:55:26 RAC Summaries**

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying stipulations and opposition.

**01:02:33 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Public comments were accepted at this time. The Division clarified that one of the intentions of the plan is to mitigate bear conflict.

**01:24:52 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

**01:28:49 Board Discussion**

The Board asked about overlapping houndsman and bait hunters in the field, and about the multi-season permit recommendation.

The Board asked if the Division saw a problem in allowing hunters who didn't harvest on a limited entry permit to participate in a spot and stalk hunt, asked about the data that has been collected on the Book Cliffs, and about the number of recommended Boulder Mountain permits.

The Board stated that they heard that bear harvest does not increase when permit numbers are increased, and asked if the Division had discussed lowering the cost of over-the-counter harvest objective bear permits.

Next, the Board asked if there are sheep allotments on the Manti-La Sal units.

Chairman Dearth outlined what the Board needed to address given the input gathered through the public process up to this point.

The Board discussed adding three additional permits to the Cache-Ogden unit.

The Board asked if there were a neonate study in the Manti area, and the Northeastern RAC chair provided some clarification.

The Board discussed if changes should be made to the Book Cliffs, and voiced interest in seeing data from a neonate study on the Book Cliffs units. The Board further asked the regional biologist about data vis-à-vis the number of recommended permits.

The Board shared that it is difficult to confirm livestock losses.

The Board discussed the RAC recommendation to not allow a multiseason permit hunter's harvest be counted towards a unit's harvest objective.

The Board discussed allowing private land owners, livestock operators in particular, to put up bear bait when public hunters are hunting bear and the bear than move onto their private property.

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

**MOTION: I move that we add three multiseason permits to the Cache-Ogden unit.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we allow the multiseason permit hunters to hunt during the spot and stalk season (if they are not successful), and to not count the harvest against the harvest quota.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at the possibility of bear baiting during harvest objective on private lands, and to include the possibility of additional public opportunities.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**02:17:13** Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Todd Adams announced the appointment of Riley Peck as the new director of the Division of Wildlife Resources.

**02:18:34** Meeting break

**02:28:04** **8) Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10** (Action)

Game Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois reviewed recommendations that were modified after this agenda item went through the RAC process.

**02:30:22** **Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked if the Division considered making a recommendation on the sale of cougar skulls, and if there is anything in code that talks about claws or skulls.

The RAC asked if the state sells pelts and/or skulls at the DWR antler and fur auction.

**02:33:49 Public Input**

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

**02:35:32 RAC Summaries**

All RACs voted in favor of the recommendations as presented, with a few stipulations.

**02:36:33 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**02:55:26 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

**02:26:11 Board Discussion/Questions**

Paula Richmond clarified her intent in making an Action Log motion for the Division to look into allowing the sale of green cougar pelts.

The Board commented that a majority cougar take is probably incidental trapping of cougars, and wondered if people might kill cougars only for their claws if the sale of claws were legal.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Cougar Recommendations and Rule R657-10 as presented by the Division.**

**03:02:02** Lunch

**03:36:17 9) Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11** (Action)

Game Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois did not have anything to add to the proposal that was posted on the Division's website.

**03:37:10 Board/RAC Questions**

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

**03:37:12 Public Input**

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

**03:37:50 RAC Summaries**

All RACs voted in favor of the Division's recommendations, with varying stipulations and opposition.

**03:38:46 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

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

**03:39:38 Board Discussion/Questions**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Furbearer Recommendations and Rule R657-11 as presented by the Division.**

**03:40:20 10) Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64**

Wildlife Biologist III Devri Tanner provided recommendation updates that were formulated as this agenda item was going through the RAC process.

**03:43:50 Board/RAC Questions**

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

**03:44:04 Public Input**

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

**03:45:16 RAC Summaries**

All RACs approved the rule amendments with various stipulations.

**03:48:46 Board Discussion/Questions**

The Board thanked the Division for updating their recommendation, and voiced support for the plan.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Coyote Bounty Rule Amendments R657-64 as presented by the Division.**

**03:50:37 11) Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations** (Action)

Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson opened the floor for questions.

**03:51:17 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked if any new information was presented in the meeting when the Shed Antler Gathering Committee reconvened.

Chairman Dearth shared his lifelong love of hunting shed antlers, stated his personal bias against creating a shed gathering season and then shared his opinion of how humans negatively pressure herds when people are out hunting sheds.

**03:57:37 RAC Summaries**

All RACs passed the recommendations with one stipulation, and opposition.

**03:59:29 Public Input**

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

**04:00:30 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

**04:00:39 RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

**04:01:30 Board Discussion/Questions**

The Board asked about adding a second trigger to the recommended emergency big game winter feeding policy.

The Board expressed concern about Utah being the only state open to gathering shed antlers, and the state being inundated with out-of-state shed hunters, and discussed shed gathering season date strategies among the intermountain west states.

The Board asked about closing critical big game areas in the winter, and talked about how many resident versus non-resident shed gathering education course certificates were issued.

The Board voiced support for the Shed Antler Gathering Committee's recommendations.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**04:11:51 12) West Desert Complex Management Plan** (Action)

Wildlife Biologist Jason Robinson did not have anything to add to the presentation that was posted on the Division's website.

**04:12:05 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board commented that it was surprising that stockmen in that area want more elk in the West Desert.

**04:13:05 Public Input**

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

**04:13:42 RAC Summaries**

All RACs voted in favor of the recommendations.

**04:15:14 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

There were no public comments submitted on this agenda item.

**04:15:32 Board Discussion/Questions**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the West Desert Complex Management Plans as presented by the Division.**

**04:16:14 13) Prohibited Species Variance Requests** (Action)

Native Herpetology Coordinator Alyssa Hoekstra summarized the two different prohibited species variance requests.

**04:19:02 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board asked about the variance request to use rattlesnakes for canine rattlesnake aversion training, and if the training posed any kind of danger to dogs.

**04:20:09 Board Discussion/Questions**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Prohibited Species Variance Requests as presented by the Division.**

**04:20:48 14) Restricted Muzzleloader Definition Clarification** (Action)

Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled, "Clarification to Restricted Muzzleloader Definition, R657-5-48"

**04:25:35 Board/RAC Questions**

The Board voiced that the current proposed definition echoes the Technology Committee's restricted weapons definitions consensus.

The Board voiced support for the proposed definition.

**04:28:42 Board Discussion/Questions**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Restricted Muzzleloader Definition clarification as presented by the Division.**

**04:29:07 Other Business** (Contingent)

Kent Johnson asked a question about the suggestion of mandatory tooth reporting on limited entry big game hunts.

**04:33:00** Meeting Adjourned

# Wildlife Board Work Session

**Eccles Wildlife Education Center, FarmingtonUT**
**April 8, 2025 9:00 am - 4 p.m.**
https://youtube.com/live/hmK9j1U9Cw

1. Legislative Update (30 min) – Justin Shannon, DWR Deputy Director and Legislative Liaison

2. Big Game statewide updates - deer, elk and pronghorn (45 minutes) - Dax Mangus, DWR Big Game
   Program Coordinator
   a. Population - status and trends
   b. Harvest - success rates, sex ratios and age of harvested animals
   c. Permit trends and availability

3. Statewide deer survival study update (45 minutes) - Dr. Randy Larsen, BYU, Research Partner
   a. Body condition and survival information for study units
   b. Yearling buck survival update

4. High priority deer projects - regional presentations (30 minutes)
   a. Elbow Ranch water system - Gary Bezzant, SRO Habitat Program Manager, DWR
   b. South Manti Restoration - Robbie Edgel, CRO Habitat Restoration Biologist, DWR

5. Using DWR's Migration Initiative to implement highway mitigation and reduce wildlife vehicle collisions (30 minutes) - Makeda Hanson, DWR Wildlife Migration Initiative Coordinator, and Daniel Olsen, DWR Impact Analysis Coordinator

6. Lunch - Provided by DWR (45 min)

7. LaSal and Tushar Mountain Goat habitat monitoring (45 min) - Loreen Flinders, BYU, Research Partner

8. Disease Update (30 min) - Dr. Virginia Stout, DWR Veterinarian and Stuart Barney, UDAF Domesticated Elk Program Director
   a. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wildlife and domesticated elk
   b. Other disease issues - Avian Influenza
   c. Ongoing projects
9. Predator Update (20 min) – Darren DeBloois, DWR Mammals Program Coordinator

a. Cougar harvest
b. Coyote bounty program

10. Licensing Update (30 min) – Lindy Varney, DWR Licensing Coordinator
    a. Preview of the upcoming draw application with new contractor

11. Wildlife Action Plan update (30 min) - Paul Thompson, DWR UWAP Coordinator
    a. Update and status of 2025 Plan revision
    b. Species Protection Account

12. Division of Law Enforcement Update (20 minutes) – Chad Bettridge, DLE Major

**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**
Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way
Farmington, Utah 84025
Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

| | |
|---|---|
| Randy Dearth – Chair | Bryce Thurgood |
| Gary Nielson – Vice-Chair | Paula Richmond |
| Riley Peck – Exec Secretary | Kent Johnson |

**Division Personnel**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ashley Green | Jim Christensen | Guy Wallace |
| Justin Shannon | Covy Jones | Paul Thompson |
| Mike Canning | Dax Mangus | Ginger Stout |
| Chris Wood | Sydney Lamb | Darren DeBloois |
| Kevin Bunnell | Rusty Robinson | Jesse Hamaker |
| Jason Vernon | Chad Wilson | Devri Tanner |
| Chris Wood | Chad Bettridge | Daniel Olson |
| Blair Stringham | Mike Wardle | Sitting next to Robbie |
| Staci Coons | Lindy Varney | Mark Farmer |
| Paige Wiren | Kenny Johnson | Makeda Hansen |
| Mike Christensen | Robbie Edgel | Gary Bezzant |

**Non-Division Personnel Presenters**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Stuart Barney | Dr. Randy Larsen | Loreen Flinders | Dr. Amanda Price |

**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**
April 8, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way
Farmington, Utah 84025
https://www.youtube.com/live/hmK9j1U-9Cw

**00:08:55** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, and noted that this was a working meeting where the Board would not be voting on any agenda items. The Board then introduced themselves.

## 00:11:40 1) Legislative Session Update

Legislative Liaison Justin Shannon gave a presentation titled "2025 Legislative General Session Update," explaining the Sportsmen's Caucus process, highlighting what took place with regards to wildlife and hunting-related bills during the 2025 legislative session, and sharing how the bills that passed will impact wildlife and wildlife management.

## 00:34:37 Board Questions

The Board commented about the element of H.B. 309 which states that RAC and Wildlife Board members must have a current hunting or combination license, and that they must have had one during three of the last five years.

The Board asked the division to explain what prompted the increase of fees for guides and outfitters, how much the increase is, and then discussed the difference between previous and future fees, as well as the difference between upcoming big game, waterfowl and fishing fee schedules.

Director Peck noted that the increased fees will not go into effect until September 1, 2025.

The Board asked if CWMU operators will be subject to the fees, if guides, outfitters or spotters will be able to purchase their respective licenses any time of the year, and asked for clarification on what the structure of regulating and enforcing the rule drafted from this code might look like.

The Division noted that the code allows for rule-making authority from the Wildlife Board, and suggested that in the drafting of the rule for this code, there could be language that identifies a cutoff date by which an outfitter must declare who their guides and spotters are.

The Board asked the Division to clarify that fees will be assessed for each outfitter, guide and spotter, and noted that when this House Bill was being discussed, the idea of a finder's fee was struck down.

The Board shared the upcoming fee schedule for resident guides, outfitters and spotters.

The Board also asked how spotters would be recognized in situations where a spotter might, for example, change mid-hunting season.

The Board suggested that the rule might include language that states that if an individual hired by an outfitter is under contract with the outfitter, then that contractual agreement would satisfy the need for the outfitter to declare who works for them.

The division noted that this rule will go into effect this spring, 2025, and that the rule may be more refined in the future, if needed.

The Board commented that sometimes the intent to close any potential loophole in a rule can have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting the people for whom the rule is written.

Chairman Dearth thanked the legislative advisory group, Deputy Director Shannon for serving as the Legislative Liaison, and others who helped throughout the 2025 Legislative Session.

**00:50:46 2) Big Game statewide updates – deer, elk and pronghorn**

- **Population – Status and Trends**

- **Harvest – success rates, sex ratios and age of harvested animals**
- **Permit trends and availability**

Big Game Program Coordinator Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled "Statewide Pronghorn, Elk and Deer Update." After he described the overview of big game management, the presentation defined common wildlife management terminology.

In the presentation, the statewide pronghorn management plan was explained, management status updates were given, and current management issues were noted.

Next, the statewide elk management plan overview, current status and current management issues were presented.

Finally, the statewide deer management plan overview, current status and current management issues were presented.

**01:41:39 Board Questions**

The Board asked how much helicopter costs for survey flights have increased in the past 10 years.

**01:43:33 3) Statewide deer survival study update**

- **Body condition and survival information for study units**
- **Yearling buck survival study**

BYU Research Partner Dr. Randy Larsen gave a presentation titled. "Monitoring Mule Deer in the Information Age: Data, Information and Decisions."

**02:39:12 Board Questions**

The Board asked if the current health of fawns in northern units is due to having fewer animals on the landscape as a result of winter die-off.

**02:41:30 4) High priority deer projects – regional presentations**

- **Elbow Ranch water system**
  SRO Habitat Program Manager Gary Bezzant gave a presentation titled "Elbow Ranch WMA," which detailed the management history and wildlife habitat improvement done on that Wildlife Management Area.
- **South Manti Restoration**

  CRO Habitat Restoration Biologist Robbie Edgel gave a presentation titled, "South Manti Mule Deer Habitat Restoration Project," which described the scope of the habitat restoration project.

**03:00:35 Board Questions**

The Board asked if selling the high elevation conifers for timber was ever discussed.

**03:11:03 Lunch break**

**03:41:36 5) Using DWR's Migration Initiative to implement highway mitigation and reduce wildlife vehicle collisions**

Impact Analysis Coordinator Daniel Olson gave a presentation titled, "Using DWR's Migration Initiative to Implement Highway Mitigation to Reduce Wildlife Vehicle Collisions," which talked about the connectivity between wildlife and roadkill.

Wildlife Migration Initiative Coordinator Makeda Hansen, and Daniel Olson gave a presentation titled, "Wildlife Data/Tools," which outlined mitigation tools in the toolbox that can help reduce wildlife vehicle collisions.

**04:01:32 Board Questions**

The Board asked about one the electronic animal detection systems shown in the presentation.

**04:14:38** The Board asked if dedicated hunters could work to maintain the fencing used to help mitigate wildlife vehicle collisions, suggested that a stretch of Highway 89 could use a wildlife crossing structure, and asked if there are plans to address this particular area of the highway.

The Board noted that the Division's Roadkill app is a useful reporting tool.

**04:17:22 7) LaSal and Tushar Mountain Goat habitat monitoring**

BYU Research Partner Loreen Flinders gave a presentation titled, "Monitoring of rare plant populations and mountain goat use in the alpine communities of the La Sal and Tushar Mountains."

**04:57:09 Board Questions**

There were no questions from the Board.

**04:58:23 8) Disease Updates**

UDAF Domesticated Elk Program Director Stuart Barney gave a presentation titled, "CWD in Utah Domesticated Elk."

**05:13:14 Board Questions**

The Board asked how long it takes for CWD to clear after elk are quarantined and how a herd is quarantined?

The Board also clarified that if the virus has infected a domestic elk herd, and therefore is in the soil of the property, and that facility goes out of business and the facility's fencing is removed, the virus is still in that area and could spread to wild elk or deer populations.

The Board asked what the difference is between quarantining a herd and keeping elk separate with high fencing.

**05:17:24** DWR State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Virginia Stout gave a presentation titled, "Wildlife Disease Updates for Utah."

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wildlife and domesticated elk**
- **Other disease issues – Avian Influenza**
- **Ongoing projects**

**05:45:00 Board Questions**

The Board shared having seen a harvested deer's glands being removed for CWD testing.

The Board asked if the idea of culling out a diseased animal has been discussed, and if there have been any cases of a mule deer testing positive for CWD, and then that same mule deer testing negative for CWD.

The Board recognized the challenge of testing mule deer with methods that are not foolproof.

**05:50:54 9) Predator Update**

Mammals Program Coordinator Darren DeBloois gave a presentation titled, "Wildlife Board Work Session April 2025, Predator Program Update."

**06:10:03 Board Questions**

Bryce Thurgood left the meeting.

There were no questions from the Board.

**06:10:38 10) Licensing Update**

Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney gave a presentation titled "Online Permit Application," which was a preview demonstration of the new draw application that will be implemented on September 1, 2025.

**06:30:39 Board Questions**

The Board complimented the division's efforts in co-creating the application tool with the new contractor.

**06:31:40 11) Wildlife Action Plan Update**

Utah Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator Paul Thompson gave a presentation titled, "2025 Utah Wildlife Action Plan-Revision Update," which was a high-level summary of what a Wildlife Action Plan is, what the Utah WAP is, and what is being revised as the current plan terminates.

**06:56:12 Board Questions**

The Board commented that habitat improvement

**06:57:15 12) Division of Law Enforcement Update**

Division of Law Enforcement Major Chad Bettridge gave a presentation titled, "Wildlife Board Work Session," in which Division of Law Enforcement updates were given.

Director Peck clarified that, with the passing of H.B. 309, there will no longer be a non-consumptive representative on a Regional Advisory Committee or Wildlife Board; instead there will be a watchable wildlife representative.

**07:08:47 Board Questions**

There were no questions from the Board.

**07:09:15** Meeting adjourned.

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
**Summary of Motions**

## 1) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments (Action)

NR, CR, SER, NER:
MOTION: I move that we accept Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR: MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Passed 9-2

## 2) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

NR: MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR: MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exception to revert the weapons split on the Thousand Lakes unit and make it the same as all other LE units.
VOTE: Fails with 5 opposed and 4 in favor
MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous

SR: MOTION: I move that we reduce the number of permits on the Beaver West to 350 and 1600 on the Beaver East.
VOTE: Passed 10-1
MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Division's proposal with the exception of no increases on the Oak Creek and San Juan limited entry permit numbers over last year's permit numbers.
VOTE: Passed 10-1

SER: MOTION: To move Beaver West to 600
VOTE: Failed 5-2
MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented.
VOTE: Passed 6-1

NER: MOTION: To accept the Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented with the exception to the Beaver West unit, decrease the increase by half (450 increase instead of the 900)
VOTE: Passed 7-1

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

NR, SR, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendation for 2025 as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR: MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exeception to utilize hunters from the alternate ram/ewes list to aid in the removal of the diseased ram/ewes.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SER: MOTION: To accept the Division's proposals as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
MOTION: To have the board solicit DWR to look at depredation hunts for OIAL species.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

**4) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)**

NR, CR, SR:

MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SER: MOTION: To increase the number of tags on the Beaver unit by 6
VOTE: Failed 5-4
MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

NER: MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division for 2025
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
MOTION: During the elk management plan, we'd like the board to review the spike general hunt whether to have a year rotation on certain units.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

**5) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)**

NR, CR, SER, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR: MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the exception of increasing the overall number of permits on the Parker Mountain by 50.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

**6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)**

NR: MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented, with the exception of reducing doe pronghorn permits to half of the recommendation on the Parker Mountain.
VOTE: Failed 5 against, 3 in favor and 1 recusal
MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR, SER, NER:
MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR: MOTION: I move that we accept the Divison's proposal as presented, with the exception of reducing doe permits by 50 on the Parker Mountain and allow the Biologist where to subtract the permits from.
VOTE: Motion failed for lack of second
MOTION: I move the we accept the Division's recommendations as presented and add 15 additional cow elk permits to the Pine Valley unit.
VOTE: Passed 6-5

**7) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

NR, CR, SR, SER, NER:
MOTION: I move we accept 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

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

NR, SR:
MOTION: I move we accept Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR: MOTION: To see three words added to Rule R657-413(a)(2) "which may be necessary through private ranch antlerless harvest open to the public draw when population estimates…"
VOTE: Passed 6 in favor, 3 opposed.

SER: MOTION: To recommend the Wildlife Board add line items stating that if a permit is obtained for a specific species and permit type points are lost and the waiting period is incurred.
VOTE: Passed 5-3
MOTION: To approve the remainder of the permit rule as presented.
VOTE: Passed 6-2

NER: MOTION: To accept the Division's Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous
MOTION: Wildlife Board to put into the Action Log, if a permit is obtained for certain species, would they lose their points for that species.
VOTE: Passed 5-3

**9) Expo Rule Amendments (Action)**

NR, CR, SR:
MOTION: I move we accept Expo Rule Amendments as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SER: MOTION: To suggest the Wildlife Board opens permits to Utah online.
VOTE: Failed 6-2
MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal as presented.
VOTE: Passed 7-1

NER: MOTION: To accept the Division's Expo Rule Amendments as presented.
VOTE: Motion Fails
MOTION: To accept the Division's Expo Rule Amendments as presented with the flexibility of the contractor to allow online validation of up to 50 of the 200 permits.
VOTE: Passed 6-2

**RAC AGENDA**
**April 9, 2025**
The meeting will stream live at https://youtube.com/live/VLDRQu0_f9w

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. Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator

7. E lk Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

8. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

10. 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Land/Public Wildlife Coordinator

11. Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

12. Expo Rule Amendments **ACTION**
    - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief

**Regional Presentations- Information Only**

Little Montes WMA Habitat Management Plan- NER ONLY
-Pat Rainbolt, Habitat Program Manager

Willow Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan -NER ONLY
-Pat Rainbolt, Habitat Program Manager

Upper San Rafael WMA Habitat Management Plan- SER ONLY
-Colton Taylor, Impact Analysis Biologist

Cinnamon Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan- NR ONLY
-Melissa Early, Habitat Program Manager

Swan Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan- NR Only
-Zach Oman, Habitat Program Manager

Timpanogos WMA Habitat Management Plan- CR ONLY
-Mark Farmer, Habitat Program Manager

Spencer Fork WMA Habitat Management Plan- CR ONLY
-Jose Seamons, Habitat Biologist

South Sanpete Valley WMA's Habitat Management Plan- CR ONLY
-Robby Edgel, Habitat Biologist

**Meeting Locations**

**NR RAC** – April 9th, 5:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/VLDRQu0_f9w

**CR RAC** – Thursday, April 10th 5:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115. N. Main Street, Springville
https://youtube.com/live/prARdsU0pqM

**SR RAC** – April 15th 5:00 PM
Hunter Conf. Center, Charles R Hunter Room
Southern Utah University
https://youtube.com/live/cma_xn3t6xE

**SER RAC** – April 16th 5:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
https://youtube.comlive/v6MarYbQtvg

**NER RAC**- April 17th 5:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal
https://youtube.com/live/VHfrupht8xl

**Board Meeting-** May 1st 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center,
Farmington Bay
https://youtube.com/live/bAdTp212E_1

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
**Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Jaimi Butler and passed unanimous.

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

2)Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented.**

3) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

5) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

6) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 (**Action)**

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ryan Brown and failed.
For: 3 Against: 5, Ryan Brown, Robert Dale, Steve Sorensen, Emily Timer, Ross Worthington
Abstain:1 Jaimi Butler

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented with the exception of reducing doe pronghorn permits to half of the recommendation on the Parker Mountain.**

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

8) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **(Action)**

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

**MOTION: I move we accept 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit**

**Recommendations as presented.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments as presented.**

9) Expo Rule Amendments **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Expo Rule Amendments as presented.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
April 9, 2025
Attendance

**RAC Members**

Brad Buchanan - Chair
Blair Stringham - Exec Sec
Ryan Brown- Co-chair
Jaimi Butler
Avery Cook
Robert Dale
Randy Hutchison
Casey Snider- Online
Steve Sorensen
* Emily Timer
Ross Worthington

*Emily Timer is sitting in for Jessica Wade as the BLM rep.

**Board Member**
Kent Johnson
Gary Nielson

**RAC Excused**
James Carlson
David Earl
Junior Goring
Darren Parry
Nikki Wayment

**Division Personnel**

Jodie Anderson
Jim Christensen
Chad Wilson
Sam Robertson
Daniel Sallee
Xaela Walden
Dax Mangus
Rusty Robinson
Covy Jones
David Smedley
Melissa Early
David Beveridge
Covy Jones
Darren Debloois
Mark Shepherd
Zach Oman

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
April 9, 2025

**00:10:13** **1)** Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.

**00:14:11** **2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes** (Action)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Jaimi Butler and passed unanimous.

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

**00:15:05** **3) Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan**

Link on website to view.

**00:18:23** **4) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments**

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:18:38** Questions from the RAC Members/Public

None

**Public Questions**

None

**00:19:05** **Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

None

**00:19:51** **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented.**

**00:20:58** **5) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025**

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:23:53** **Questions from RAC/Public**

Length of the deer management plan. Number of permits on the Myton unit. Shift in the buck to doe ratios on the Henry Mountains and the Paunsaugunt. Difference between management permit and other permits. Having just the limited entry units not the premium limited entry units, open for management hunts.

**Public Questions**

None

**00:31:51** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Garritt Slatcoff- Utah Backcountry Hunters & Anglers- Supports the proposed deer permit numbers, as providing more permits will allow more hunters to get out and hunt. 20% rule is going to allow the biologists to better manage our deer population.

Troy Justensen- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendation with the exception of three units including the Beaver West. Our committee would like to start that a little slow with 500 permits. The division recommended 1500 permits on that unit. For the Fillmore Oak Creek, the committee would like to keep the permits at the number they were last year. On the San Juan unit, the committee would like to keep the numbers the same as well.

**00:35:34** **RAC Discussion/Division clarification and Motions**

Appreciate holding to the plan. Number of deer to support the number of permits. Meeting in the middle with the number of permits. Beaver West recommendation is 900 permits. Range conditions on the Beaver unit. Buck to doe ratio change. Regarding the ratio of permits versus total population on a few units in the Northern region, permit numbers are inconsistent with the rest of the state.

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimous.

**Discussion on the motion**

Like to see further discussion on a management plan for limited entry units. There is an opportunity there for a management buck hunt.

**MOTION: I move that we accept Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

**00:46:12** **6) Once-in-a Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2024** (Action)

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

Rusty Robinson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:46:29** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Disease in the Wasatch bighorn sheep population and where it came from. Impact of the disease on the sheep. Bison permit numbers on the Henry Mountains. Change in mountain goat population on Willard Peak.

**Public Questions**

None

**00:52:59** **Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen - Sportmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendations. Like to see ways to use hunters to depopulate areas, or if there is a concern with a disease outbreak, to try to mitigate and allow hunters to take those animals.

**00:54:11** **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Once-in-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

**00:55:18** **7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**00:56:37** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Elk plan review. Success rate on the youth elk hunt. Shift in success rate after permit numbers were increased. HB202 and changes to elk permits. Concern on the Boulder unit and the significant drop in the age of the elk, but keeping the permit numbers the same as last year. Pilot Mountain and Utah's cooperation with Nevada. Nevada's age class objective. Return rate on teeth.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:08:57** **Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen - Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division's recommendation except our San Juan Chapter would like to keep the bull permits on the San Juan the same as last year.

Adam Denison - Utah Backcountry Hunters & Anglers- Support the recommendations.

**01:10:33** **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

San Juan age objective. Age class swings.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

**01:12:48** **8) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:14:37** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Objective and permit numbers for pronghorn on the Parker Mountain. Split on permit numbers.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:20:54** **Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen - Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the division's recommendation.

**01:22:02** **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Concern with permit numbers. Wyoming's problems with disease being seen in the Utah pronghorn herd on the Cache/Rich unit.

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

**Discussion on the Motion**

Action item to look at the split at a future date. These recommendations come out after the draws have already started. Have the board address the action item. Add this discussion to the November RAC.

**MOTION: I move we accept Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

**01:26:42** **9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:28:34** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Legislature passed a bill a few years ago dealing with wildlife conflict. Reduction in permits on the Morgan/South Rich. Permits specific to WMAs. Parker Mountain permit numbers. Hunt dates to distribute hunters. Options for transplants. Agriculture and pronghorn issues.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:42:14** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

Adam Denison - Utah Backcountry Hunters & Anglers – Support the recommendations.

**01:44:19 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ryan Brown and failed. For: 3 Against: 5, Ryan Brown, Robert Dale, Steve Sorensen, Emily Timer, Ross Worthington Abstain:1, Jaimi Butler

**Discussion on the motion**

Parker Mountain pronghorn herd and the winter of 2022-2023. Biologists are doing work on that unit, including providing for public hunters. Parker Mountain herd used to be steller. Number of pronghorn doe permits.

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented with the exception of reducing doe pronghorn permits to half of the recommendation on the Parker Mountain.**

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

**MOTION: I move we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.**

**01:54:24 10) 2025 CWMU Anterless Permit Recommendations**

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

Chad Wilson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

**01:54:43 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Help with the cow elk harvest. Shorter hunt season dates. Discussions with Deseret and if they followed up with the commitments they made to the legislature.

**Public Questions**

None

**01:56:53 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

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

**Public Comment**

None

**01:57:12 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

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

**MOTION: I move we accept 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.**

**01:58:19 11) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendment**

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

Chad Wilson summarized the Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendment presentation for the RAC.

**01:58:51 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Privatizing wildlife. Landowners eligible for permits.

**Public Questions**

Will the permits go through the public process?

**02:01:47** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**
Blair Stringham summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

None

**02:02:25** **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

There is nothing we can act on. We have been handed a pile of stuff and we have to live with it. We have a process in Utah, and if people don't like the process, they take their idea to their local politician to push it through, to get what they want. Some politicians don't know what is going on. They don't hunt and they are passing things based on someone else's opinion. Not the right way to go. Understand landowner challenges. Grateful for the flexibility the division has.

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

**MOTION: I move we accept the Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments as presented.**

**02:06:23** **12) Expo Rule Amendments**

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

Covy Jones summarized the Expo Rule Amendments presentation for the RAC.

**02:10:28** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Swan permits as a conservation permit. Percentages for contractor costs. Draw opportunity for upland game hunts on locations like Antelope Island. Upland game permits as conservation permits. Sharptail and sage grouse added to the conservation permits.

**Public Questions**

Report available to the public showing where funding from the sale of conservation permits was spent.

**02:19:07 Electronic/Public Comment Report from Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor**

Blair Stringham summarized the public comments from the online presentation.

**Public Comment**

Troy Justensen - Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- The expo is totally separate from the conservation permits. To spend that money, we have to have a cover sheet from the division, and it has to be an approved project. We don't keep the permit money. It stays here for the benefit of wildlife in Utah. Most of the money has been spent to help waterfowl and upland game. Just talk to the waterfowl managers. It's a great program. Support the division's recommendations.

**02:22:57 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Utah is a leader in what we do for habitat and wildlife. None of the western states combined do as much work as we do in Utah for habitat. 6.6 million in Expo money and conservation tag money, was spent this year. Open for the increase. A couple of new sheep, bison and goat herds are now in the state. Able to have some interesting projects that a lot of other states don't have the option to do due to a lack of funding. It does become a sacrifice for the public hunter, but it's a reinvestment opportunity for the state that benefits everyone. Leverages a lot of money that can be used on public and private lands.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Avery Cook and passed unanimous.

**MOTION: I move we accept Expo Rule Amendments as presented.**

**02:29:21 13) Cinnamon Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan (Informational)**

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

Melissa Early summarized the Cinnamon Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan presentation for the RAC.

**02:30:26 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Goals of WMAs and if there are metrics to measure success. Roads and access dates. Camping on WMAs.

**02:38:05 14) Swan Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan (Informational)**
Presentations could be viewed at https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html

Zach Oman summarized the Swan Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan presentation for the RAC.

**02:39:09 Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Like the restrictions put in place. Access on the WMAs from National Forest Land.

**02:40:23** Randy Hutchison. Motion to Adjourn.

RAC AGENDA

# April 2025

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. Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator

7. Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

8. Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 **ACTION**
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

10. 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

11. Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments **ACTION**
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

12. Expo Rule Amendments **ACTION**
    - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief

13. Timpanogos WMA Habitat Management Plan **INFORMATIONAL**
    - Mark Farmer, Habitat Program Manager

14. Spencer Fork WMA Habitat Management Plan **INFORMATIONAL**
    - Josee Seamons, Habitat Biologist

15. South Sanpete Valley WMA Habitat Management Plan **INFORMATIONAL**
    - Robby Edgel, Habitat Biologist

# Central Region RAC Meeting
## Summary of Motions
April 10, 2025
Springville, Utah

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Bryce Castegnetto and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda for the April 10, 2025 RAC meeting as presented.**

2) Approval of the December 10, 2024 central region RAC minutes

The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Bryce Castegnetto and passes unanimously.

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

3) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments

The following motion was made by Joshua Lenart, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passes unanimously.

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

4) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Josh Lenart and fails with four in favor and five opposed.

**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exception to revert the weapons split on the Thousand Lakes unit and make it the same as all other LE units.**

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

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

5) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exception to utilize hunters from the alternate ram/ewes list to aid in the removal of the diseased ram/ewes.**

6) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Eric Reid. This motion passes unanimously.

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

7) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025

The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Kellen Hyer. Passes unanimously.

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

8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025

The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes unanimously.

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

9) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Eric Reid. Passes unanimously. (Amos did not respond to the vote).

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

10) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments

The following motion was made by Joshua Lenart and seconded by Scott Jensen. Passes 6 in favor, 3 opposed.

**MOTION: To see three words added to RULE R657-43-12-3a2 "....which may be necessary through private ranch antlerless harvest open to the public draw when population estimates…**

11) Expo Rule Amendments

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

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

# Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance
April 10, 2025
Springville, Utah

## RAC Members

| Attending | Absent |
|---|---|
| Scott Jensen | Jim Shuler (absent) |
| Joshua Lenart | Brock McMillan (absent-excused) |
| Mike Christensen | Josh Greenhalgh (absent-excused) |
| Drew Eline | Jim Shuler (absent-excused) |
| John Ziegler - online | Steve Lund (absent) |
| Bryce Castagnetto | |
| Amos Murphy - online | |
| Braden Sheppard - online | |
| Kellen Hyer | |
| Eric Reid | |

## Wildlife Board

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| Gary Nielson | Kent Johnson - online |

## DWR Personnel

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| Bailee Prestwich | Jason Vernon |
| Michael Packer | Aaron Sisson |
| Wes Alexander | Jason Robinson |
| Darren DeBloois | Dax Mangus |
| Jake Barnes | Sydney Lamb |
| Ashley Green | Chad Wilson (online) |
| Covy Jones | Lindy Varney (online) |
| Rusty Robinson | Josee Seamons |
| Mark Farmer | Robby Edgel |
| Matt Briggs | Justin Shannon |

Total members of the public in attendance: 4

# Central Region RAC Meeting

April 10, 2025

Springville, Utah

https://youtu.be/ZE4dzclEtsw

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| **05:02:32** | RAC member Mike Christensen called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel were present on the broadcast. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations and public comments will be taken during the meeting. |
| **05:05:40** | **1) Approval of Agenda & Past Minutes** (Action)<br>The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passes unanimously<br>**MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.** |
| **05:06:08** | **2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update** (Informational)<br>RAC member Mike Christensen provided an information update on the most recent Wildlife Board meeting. |
| **05:13:21** | **3) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments** (Action)<br>Dax Mangus presented to the board. |
| **05:17:28** | **RAC Questions**<br>RAC members asked questions surrounding the town of Alton and the need for harvesting in town/urban deer within the Paunsagant unit. The ability to harvest antlerless species within the town of Alton would change the Rule that currently states not hunting within city limits. The RAC questioned the validity of harvesting antlerless species instead of antlered. Prize bucks being shot behind fences has been historically not the best look, however the Division stands between a rock and a hard place on what fits as a more feasible option. Fencing around the town of Alton has served as a preventative against deer migrating in town to feed on the Alfalfa fields there, however the fencing has fallen into disrepair and quite a few animals have gotten in. This creates a ton of issues within town and is the main culprit of this rule amendment. RAC members raised concerns about the impact on future bucks if the town were to harvest the does that are creating them. The RAC discussed the rule where individuals bringing heads or spines back across state lines from neighboring states with positive CWD cases. This rule has been in effect since the last mule deer plan. The RAC encouraged the Division to consider adding more media coverage of this rule to better inform the public of the change. |
| **05:24:43** | **Public Questions**<br>- None. |

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| **05:25:11** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- None. |
| **05:26:15** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC did not engage in a discussion. |
| **05:26:31** | **Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Joshus Lenart and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. Motion passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To accept the amendments as presented.** |
| **05:25:50** | **4) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>Dax Mangus presented to the board. |
| **05:28:50** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked questions on the Thousand Lakes Unit and the reasoning behind switching the split for this unit specifically to 40, 30, 30. The RAC questioned what other metrics go into permit recommendations other than buck to doe ratios. The East Canyon unit recommendations were also discussed as RAC members reviewed some of the public comments on the 1900 permit recommendations with a 2400 deer objective on the unit. The public comments were not in support of this recommendation as the buck to doe ratios did not seem to support it. RAC members asked for clarification on what considers a deer to be a “buck” i.e. reproductive age, antler size, etc. The RAC encouraged the Division to put together some sort of graphic or model online that would illustrate the Buck to Doe Ratios/Permit Recommendations research in a way that was more digestible for the public. |
| **05:39:52** | **Public Questions**<br>- None |
| **05:40:00** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- Garrett Slatcoff BHA - We support this proposal.<br>- Troy Justensen SFW) - We are in favor of the proposal with three exceptions. The Beaver West unit should be 500 permits instead of 900. We would also like to stay with last year's recommendations on the San Juan and the Oak Creeks |

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| | unit.<br>- Jeremy Anderson MDF - We support this proposal. |
| **05:44:18** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC discussed the low demand for primitive archery hunts and how although the hunt is limited entry, the potential for it to be drawn easier (like a GS hunt) is very high. The RAC spoke on the recommendation to simply keep all limited entry hunts to the same split as all other limited entry units. The RAC commended the biologists working on the recommendations that they develop. The RAC would like to see some kind of model or graphic to help better educate the public on how these are determined. |
| **05:59:11** | **Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Josh Lenart. This motion fails with four in favor and five opposed.<br>**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exception to revert the weapons split on the Thousand Lakes unit and make it the same as all other LE units.** |
| **06:00:34** | **Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. This motion passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.** |
| **06:01:31** | **5) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>Rusty Robinson presented to the board. |
| **06:05:33** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked for clarification on how the Bighorn Sheep tags were distributed between the Nine Mile and the Fillmore Oak Creek units. The RAC had concerns around the potential removal of tags from residents to benefit non residents on these Once in a Lifetime hunts. The RAC asked for what reasoning supports there only being two tags for Bison on Antelope Island. The RAC discovered the potential hunts that happen on these units outside of just “public” or “draw only” hunts. Antelope island specifically has more than two hunts happening in one season, however they are not considered in the public draw as those on the alternate list are contacted to harvest a SPECIFIC bull/cow instead of having the ability to choose what animal they harvest themselves. |
| **06:13:17** | **Public Questions** |

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| | - None |
| **06:13:25** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- Troy Justensen SFW - We support the Divisions recommendations on OIL permits with the ask that the Division work to get more public hunters involved in the removal of Bighorn sheep that have been affected by disease. |
| **06:16:59** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC discussed the mortality rate of the Bighorn Sheep affected by disease and what potential incidents the Division have investigated to determine that. The RAC discussed the rate of mortality in herds that are diseased and how quickly it can spread. The RAC made comments on the potential of using hunters off the public alternate list to harvest these diseased rams/ewes. The comparison to other states' program structure where if there is no excess amount of tags, then non residents are not offered tags that year was also discussed as a potential option for the board to consider under this recommendation. |
| **06:25:55** | **Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Josh Lenart and seconded by Bryce Castagnetto. This motion passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented with the exception to utilize hunters from the alternate ram/ewes list to aid in the removal of the diseased ram/ewes.** |
| **06:27:24** | **6) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>Dax Mangus presented to the board. |
| **06:28:55** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked how the Division is educating the public (other than the name change) on the change from allowing you to harvest any bull on the Wasatch unit. |
| **06:30:20** | **Public Questions**<br>- None. |
| **06:30:38** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- Troy Justensen SFW) - We are in favor of the proposal with the exception of keeping the San Juan unit tag numbers as is. |

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| **06:32:03** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC discussed the tag numbers on the San Juan unit in the past compared to the recommendations being presented. The RAC discussed the data being pulled for elk age classification and if outliers (spike bulls harvested on LE tags, bulls harvested that are over the age objectives..etc) were being considered in the models being proposed. The impact of those outliers on the age classification data being negatively impacted was considered a potential issue. The RAC discussed access issues for the East Canyon HAMS hunts in December and the potential municipalities that may make it difficult for hunters to access. The recommendation to add some sort of asterisk or indicator during the application process for public hunters applying for these impacted units was proposed as a potential solution. |
| **06:39:34** | **Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Eric Reid. This motion passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.** |
| **06:40:15** | **7) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>Dax Mangus presented to the board. |
| **06:41:36** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked why in the past three years the Buck Pronghorn numbers on the Parker unit have been in decline, yet now all of a sudden they are over objective. The migration patterns of Pronghorn through the valley were explained. The RAC questioned if the ALW hunt for Pornghorn happening before the Muzzleloader hunt was due to biological or social reasoning. |
| **06:50:11** | **Public Questions**<br>- None |
| **06:50:15** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- None |
| **06:51:27** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC recognized and gave acknowledgement to our biologists and habitat managers for dedicating so much time and effort to the state's Pronghorn population. It is a huge success story and speaks to the efforts that are being put into the state's natural resources. |

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| **06:54:54** | **Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Kellen Hyer. Passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.** |
| **06:55:21** | **8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>Dax Mangus presented to the board. |
| **06:56:55** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked clarifying questions surrounding the recommended permit number for the Southern units, specifically focusing on the La Sal Mountains and the Nine Mile Range Creek. The RAC asked for a breakdown of what factors play a role in the difference of tags recommendations across units. Private land/CWMU access being a big culprit. |
| **07:02:46** | **Public Questions**<br>- None |
| **07:02:51** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- Ben Lowder UAS - Very excited to see the Antlerless Archery Moose opportunity on the Morgan South Rich. All weapon types are just a different kind of tool. We sup[port the recommendations as presented. |
| **07:05:44** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC did not engage in a discussion. |
| **07:06:00** | **Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.** |
| **07:06:44** | **9) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations** (Action)<br>Darren Deboois presented to the board. |

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| **07:09:04** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked how many bucks and bull permits are offered through the CWMU program in comparison to the antlerless. The antlerless hunting opportunity came through with much fewer tags than antlered. The Division made a recommendation to not renew a specific CWMU on the La Sal's however the Wildlife Board has moved forward with the renewal. The RAC asked for a higher level of understanding as to why and how that happened. The RAC discussed the last CWMU revision and the tools that were put in place then to aid CWMU's harvest objectives when they are either above or below the objectives. The RAC discussed the reasoning behind the raising of GS tags for units like the Manti and what that could potentially mean for CWMU's within that unit. The RAC also asked how many antlerless Pronghorn tags would be offered for the Westlake CWMU. |
| **07:19:40** | **Public Questions**<br>- None. |
| **07:19:45** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- None. |
| **07:20:25** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC expressed gratitude towards the CWMU's that are choosing to step up to the plate and put in the work to ensure they are meeting harvest objectives. They highlighted the work the CWMU's are doing in the program as proof they have dedication to managing these herds. The RAc also made a note to mention the CWMU committee should look for any additional/potential opportunities that may be available for public hunters when meeting. |
| **07:25:14** | **2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Eric Reid. Passes unanimously. (Amos did not respond to the vote).<br>**MOTION: To approve the recommendations as presented.** |
| **07:26:12** | **10) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments** (Action)<br>Darren Deboois presented to the board. |
| **07:27:07** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC requested a breakdown of the variance for landowners who own between 4,000 - 8,999 acres and any additional requirements they may need to meet in order to be eligible for the 0-2 LE Elk permits. The RAC asked for feedback on how the Division |

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| | will determine if a landowner is eligible for 0, 1 or 2 LE Elk permits under this new rule. Some of the criteria includes willingness to help manage the herds that reside within their properties, if they meet the acreage requirement as well as if they have ever received any wildlife convictions in the past. The RAC asked if tenants of the land would be eligible to apply for these permits or if it would be offered only to the deeded landowners themselves. The RAC asked what potential there may be in the future to get the public hunting on these private lands potentially. The RAC encouraged adding the language that public hunters may have access to these tags in the proposal. The option to receive the harvest data for these hunts similar to public hunt data was also encouraged. RAC members asked if the "tolerance for wildlife" was solely in terms of elk or all potential wildlife on the properties. Clarification says "wildlife" and is open ended and potentially can mean "all". This rule was written to be subjective for a reason and Covey Jones made sure to be as transparent with the RAC as possible on this. |
| **07:41:46** | **Public Questions**<br>- None |
| **07:41:57** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- None. |
| **07:42:49** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC expressed concern around the lock up of roughly 400,000 acres of land that has no public benefit. The RAC recommended that the Division consider adding four antlerless permits to every bull that landowners may receive. However, the Division really only has the authority under rule to dictate when these permits are allocated. The RAC discussed the concerns around landowners fulfilling projects to aid wildlife on lands that the public can't access. These projects will potentially draw in elk to properties where the public hunter does not have access and will remove more elk from the public landscapes. |
| **07:58:38** | **Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Joshua Lenart and seconded by Scott Jensen. Passes 6 in favor, 3 opposed.<br>**MOTION: To see three words added to RULE R657-43-12-3a2 "....which may be necessary through private ranch antlerless harvest open to the public draw when population estimates….. ** |
| **08:03:53** | **11) Expo Rule Amendments** (Action)<br>Covey Jones presented to the board. |

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| **08:11:58** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC asked for clarification on how the financing produced from the expo draws is dispersed (what entities the funds are distributed amongst and how). The RAC questioned the 35% that is returned by the agency “running” the draws and what sideboards there may be on how that money is spent to benefit wildlife. The RAC discussed the disadvantages to running the expo funds the same way that they currently run conservation permit funds. The RAC asked how the Division would regulate adding Tundra Swans to the Expo Draw as well as how the division would determine the amount of permits the expo could give out. With the removal of the “due to Covid-19” language being removed from the rule, if there would still be options for individuals in the public to fulfill the expo applications virtually with a proper variance or would the option fully be dissolved. |
| **08:20:28** | **Public Questions**<br>- None |
| **08:20:39** | **Public Comments**<br>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.<br>**Public Comments**<br>- Troy Justensen (SFW) - As far as accountability and transparency, you can go and see how we have to turn in a report and see how we operate. The thing that is also critical, this is an application fee, it is no different than when we send our apps to Fallon Nevada. With the current changes they have coming down, the $1.50 will be restricted. We would not have a Desert BigHorn Sheep Facility without it. We are very appreciative of having it and we will always use these funds to benefit Utah's wildlife. We do support the changes.<br>- Jeremy Anderson MDF - I second what Troy says. I would add it is very useful to have these individual foundations and is a crucial part of supporting our wildlife. |
| **08:26:48** | **RAC Discussion**<br>The RAC expressed their overall support of this program as an aid to the wildlife. |
| **08:30:20** | **Expo Rule Amendments**<br>**MOTION**<br>The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by John Ziegler. Passes unanimously.<br>**MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.** |
| **08:30:59** | **12) Timpanogos WMA Habitat Management Plan** (Informational)<br>Mark Farmer, Habitat Program Manager presented to the board. |
| **08:34:38** | **RAC Questions** |

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| | The RAC members asked questions on how the Division will enforce people who are recreating on WMA's and what kinds of fines/warnings may be issued to those who do not comply. The RAC asked how the Habitat teams will utilize signage and education as a way to ensure all persons entering the WMA's are aware of the new management change. Partnerships with the Forest Service and others was explained as the Division will utilize their teams to spread the word on the management plan. The RAC also asked if there would be any seasonal closures considered for the properties as well to help mitigate recreation from mountain bikers, hunters and horses. Concerns around closure for late season Chukar hunting on the properties was discussed. |
| **08:43:53** | **13) Spencer Fork WMA Habitat Management Plan** (Informational)<br>Josee Seamons, Habitat Biologist presented to the board. |
| **08:45:26** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC discussed similar to the previous informational item the logistics of educating those recreating on the properties about the recent license requirement as well as the way the Division plans on enforcing it. The RAC also asked if there were any landowners that had easements for access usage on the properties. |
| **08:47:42** | **14) South Sanpete Valley WMA Habitat Management Plan** (Informational)<br>Robby Edgel, Habitat Biologist presented to the board. |
| **08:51:32** | **RAC Questions**<br>The RAC did not engage in a discussion. |
| **08:52:29** | **Meeting adjourned.** |

**Southern Regional RAC Meeting**

**April 15, 2025 5:00 PM, Cedar City, UT**

**RAC Members**

| **Attending** | **Absent** |
|---|---|
| Austin Atkinson | Travis Duran |
| Bart Battista (Online) | |
| Rachel Bolus | |
| Chuck Chamberlain | |
| Brooklyn Cox | |
| Mike Grant | |
| Russell Gardner | |
| Bryant Johnson | |
| Verland King (Online) | |
| Tammy Pearson | |
| Riley Roberts (Online) | |
| Chad Utley (Online) | |

**Wildlife Board**

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| Paula Richmond | Gary Nielson (Online) |

**DWR Personnel**

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| Kevin Bunnell | Adam Kavalunas |
| Teresa Griffin | Jason Nicholes |
| Tyrell Orme | Danielle Dershem |
| Chad Wilson | Mike Christensen |
| Kyle Christensen | Morgan Hinton |
| Mike Wardle | Vance Mumford |
| Denise Gilgen (Online) | Sherry Gilge (Online) |
| Lindy Varney (Online) | Brandon White |
| Paul Washburn | Justin Shannon |
| Covy Jones | Riley Peck |
| Dax Mangus | Rusty Robinson |

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

**Southern Region RAC Meeting**

**April 15, 2025**

**Cedar City, Utah**

https://youtube.com/live/cma_xn3t6xE

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| **05:08:37** | 1) **RAC Chair Austin Atkinson** called the meeting to order. Called the roll of RAC members.<br>• Explained the RAC process and noted there will be no live presentations during the meeting<br>• Encouraged those who want to express their opinions at tonight's meeting to submit a comment card.<br>• Reminded everyone to be respectful of others, especially of those who have ideas and opinions that may differ from their own. |
| **05:13:43** | **2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**<br>**RAC Chair Austin Atkinson**<br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Mike Grant**.**<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we approved the Agenda and Minutes as presented.**<br><br>**Passed unanimously.** |
| **05:14:13** | **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update**<br>**(Informational)**<br>**RAC Chair Austin Atkinson**<br>• Reviewed the motions from the Wildlife Board Meeting held on January 09, 2025.<br>• Big Game Application deadline is April 24, 2025.<br>• Openings are coming up for Regional Advisory Council positions. Three openings in Southern Utah.<br>• No Regional Update presented due to the number of Agenda items to be discussed in tonight's meeting. |
| **05:20:15** | **4) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments**<br>**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **05:23:38** | **RAC Questions:**<br>• **Mike Grant:** Doe hunting is somewhat controversial with sportsmen, especially where we are at with our population. Heard transplanted Deer from rural areas do not live or they make their way back to the rural areas. However, why don't we transplant Doe Deer and see how they do? Give them a chance to have a fawn, or to live? |

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| | • **Bart Battista:** With regard to bringing skulls into Utah from other states where CWD is present. Who is telling you compliance is low? Why do hunters think it's burdensome to comply with a regulation to prevent potential importation of CWD into the State?<br>• Doesn't anticipate people would dump skulls on the landscape, the part that matters is the brain with the prions in it. Are there measures in place to have taxidermists properly dispose of brain matter that may be positive for CWD?<br>• Since we aren't going to be managing the possible importation of brain matter, are we going to do any studies to increase knowledge on the fate of transported CWD infected material on the environment? There are a lot of studies showing it is persistent. |
| **05:28:10** | **Public Questions:**<br>• **Brian Johnson:** We had a rule in place regarding CWD that we just got rid of because brains are hard to get rid of in a place we know has CWD, but we don't transplant Deer because they might have CWD? Doesn't understand this, doesn't make sense. |
| **05:31:50** | **Public Comments:**<br>• **Kevin Bunnell – Online Comments:**<br>• Strongly agree: 4 (100%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Total votes: 4<br>• Weighted average: [ (0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (4 * 5) ] / 4 = 5<br><br>**Kevin Bunnell**: The four comments received were all in favor to allow for the harvest of Antlerless Deer around Alton, Utah. The Mayor and Town Council sent in comments in favor. We have been working with the town of Alton, Town Council, landowners, CWMU, etc. to try to have an approach to depredation that is fair and an agreement that the fence there is in as good of shape as it can be on an annual basis. Removing a minimum amount of Deer on an annual basis. First part of the plan is to make sure the fence is doing its job. If we do need to deal with those few Deer that get in, we will have some tools to do that. |
| **05:33:15** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Bart Battista:** Online Google searches for scientific studies on CWD and transport of this disease. Minnesota study showed it's more persistent in sediment than in water. If taxidermists are hosing down areas where they are doing this sort of work or it's all collected into a |

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| | holding tank, the holding tank or septic tank is fine, but it does persist in the environment. Seems this lasses faire approach is not appropriate – especially is everyone is worried about the spread of CWD.<br>• Seems not enforcing this is not appropriate response or approach because people don't like. This doesn't seem like a smart proposal, backward approach.<br>• As an Environment Engineer, he sees no recommendation for mitigation of potential contamination in the environment.<br><br>• **Verland King:** As a Veterinarian, doesn't see any reason why we shouldn't accept this proposal. The chance of spreading CWD from a skull that is going to be cleaned for a European mount, the steps that are talked about in the proposal are sufficient to eliminate a problem. |
| **05:36:55** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Verland King.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**<br><br>**Passed 9-2, Bart Battista and Mike Grant opposed.** (Mike Grant opposed due to transplanting these Does and CWD, seems to be an issue we talk about often. We shouldn't bend rules or change rules for people who say they didn't understand them. Bart Battista opposed for reasons he previously stated in comments/questions). |
| **05:39:20** | **5) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **05:39:48** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: What is our population on the Beaver unit and what justifies 1000 new hunting permits?<br>• How many collars did you end up doing on the Beaver unit?<br>• How will you split that out, Archery, Muzzleloader and ALW?<br>• Do you keep the highway death count? Obviously, our herds are rebounding. We see a lot of dead Deer on our roadways.<br><br>• **Mike Wardle**: 10,000 total Deer population on the Beaver unit as a whole.<br>• No specific population data or estimate on the Beaver East and Beaver West, because it has never been collected that way – new this year.<br>• The split is 20 percent Archery, 20 percent Muzzleloader, 60 percent ALW. |

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| | • Yes, we do keep a count on the Deer killed on highways and roadways.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: How many deer are moving from East to West and vice versa based on collar data, cameras, etc<br>• Your opinion is they're pretty separate, distinct populations at this point?<br>• Hypothetically, if the Beaver West was not a restricted weapons hunt, just split into West and East, would you have recommended less permits?<br><br>• **Mike Wardle**: Not as many as we thought. Approximately 120 collars, but only three or four of those crossed I-15. Collars were placed on both the East and West.<br>• Definitely some crossover, but not significant.<br>• Yes, we anticipate lower success rates.<br>• Austin, there were 120 collars that were put out on the Beaver. Thirty of those collars were on the West side and four of those successfully crossed I-15 to the East side.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson**: What were the permit numbers on the Beaver unit last year?<br>• What percent of the land area of the Beaver West would have been the total of that?<br>• Feels the Buck to Doe ratio DWR is showing is incorrect, thinks it was figured wrong.<br>• We had huge fires on the Beaver unit last year. Those areas have few animals that are staying there consistently – moving in and out. They'll come back, but was this taken into consideration for this year?<br>• Maybe we need to get the habitat back before we hunt the deer.<br><br>• **Mike Wardle:** 1800 permits.<br>• We had three collared Does that were close to the fires (Bullion Canyon). Some days they were right in the burn scar, some days they bumped out. We didn't see any mortality from the fires, doesn't mean we did have any.<br>• Some of the fires were beneficial for wildlife, especially at the higher elevation.<br><br>• **Mike Grant**: Where did you pull your numbers from? For permits? From harvest surveys? How many hunters on the West side?<br><br>• **Mike Wardle**: Looking back, even five years ago, we had over 3,000 permits. Started to see low fawn production, lower adult survival rates, we cut permits back, down to 1200 permits. As we've seen the Deer population increase, we've increased the number of permits. |

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| | • When he made recommendation, he looked at the Beaver as a whole, (Buck to Doe ratio, fawn/Doe ratio, collar information, that is where the 2800 permits came from. Lower Buck to Doe ratio as well in the Statewide change. After that, the challenge became how to change that to the Beaver East and Beaver West. Looked at how many he classified on the East versus the West. Over the past 10 years, the West number made up a third of the sample. Success rates area guess, we assume they're going to be lower than our regular weapons.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: Will you explain why you are recommending a decrease in permits on the Pine Valley and Zion units?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: Mike explained how he came up with his recommendations. It's a similar process used by Biologists across the State when making recommendations. Permit numbers are set to help us meet objectives. Drought conditions on the Southwest Desert, Pine Valley and Zion units.<br><br>• **Mike Grant**: For clarification on the Monroe unit. Loves information we are putting out regarding migratory paths. Monroe has a substantial amount of Deer that migrate from Fish Lake and the Parker Mountain every winter and those are counted as Monroe Deer. Moving to wintering grounds on the Monroe, they aren't really Monroe Deer until the rifle hunt and beyond. Are we accounting for 500 – 700 Deer that are migrating to the Monroe?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: Tried to draw up hunting boundaries that encompassed populations, not ever perfect. Movement does occur.<br>Not sure we'll ever be able to perfectly encompass all migrations, but it is taken into account.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson**: This is the only unit that's getting a 50 plus percent from last year. And then to have that Buck to Doe ratio change, that's not a constant on what we are doing across the state, correct?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus:** We adjust permits across the state based on data and we did change Buck to Doe ratio objectives on some units this year. If we want to study what would happen if we don't change permit numbers, we did that on the Henry Mountains and Paunsaugunt for the last five years. On the Henry Mountains, the overall population declined and the Buck to Doe ratio declined. On the Paunsaugunt, it declined a bit, then increased a bit. |

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| **05:53:40** | **Public Questions:**<br><br>• **Logan Marshall:** When the Beaver West restricted weapons was proposed last year, felt it was proposed as a test unit for how restricted weapons deal with hunting. It may have been a three or four year proposal. Will you confirm or deny this?<br>• Is this still the Division's intent to use this as a testing period for restricted weapons? What specific things are we looking to test for? Harvest success, how population numbers are affected, and hunter satisfaction?<br>• If this is a test unit, can we expect a tag number lock for the duration of that testing period to keep in control the controllable variables for that test?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus:** Part of a research proposal for four years. 2025 is year one. Will be compared to Beaver East and look at how that might affect populations and hunters. Success rates for draw, hunting opportunity, etc. Is this something hunters like? The size of Bucks left after the hunt, are people going to be less selective because they have a shorter range with their weapons, etc. We'll look at social and biological aspects.<br>• If we keep permit numbers the same, it introduces an additional variable. If the population changes, if the production changes, if we end up with a Buck to Doe ratio that's substantially higher than it was before or higher than the other side of the Beaver – we do know that that makes a big difference. If we set permit numbers, then we aren't really evaluating whether or not we can offer additional opportunity, if we don't try to maintain Buck to Doe ratio. At this point, we are looking at can we give more hunter opportunity and still maintain at our Buck to Doe ratio objectives.<br><br>• **Paul Marshall:** Collecting the data and using this as a study. If you're giving 900 permits on the Beaver West and you're doing a study for three years, why would you change that and think that is going to help with understanding the population versus what your original goal of the study was?<br>• What makes that different than any other unit in the state? Isn't that how we determine permit numbers? We look at the data we have and we adjust from there?<br>• If we do restrictive weapons for a four year period, we want to know after the four year period what the result of that was. Not 900 permits this year, 120 permits next year, 400 the next and then determine what the outcome was. Your variable variables aren't making sense. Need to set this up as a study and look at results at the end of the study, not in the middle. |

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| | **Dax Mangus:** If the variable we are trying to evaluate is the change to Buck to Doe ratio, we don't need to restrict weapons. We could just change the Buck to Doe ratio. If what we are trying to evaluate is restrictive weapons, then we want to keep the Buck to Doe ratio variable constant. The variable we are interested in is restricted weapons and how does that affect success rates, how does that affect hunter demand, and are their biological implications from using restrictive weapons.<br><br>**Kevin Bunnell:** A control is to keep things constant. Our constant is we change permits yearly, that's how we manage Deer in the State of Utah. We are keeping our management constant, we are changing the weapons we use. By continuing to change permits every year that is staying constant, with what we have been doing. The only variable we are changing is the weapons we are using, everything else is remaining constant. |
| **06:03:52** | **Public Comments:**<br><br>**Kevin Bunnell: On-line**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 2 (22%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 7 (78%)<br>• Total votes: 9<br>• Weighted average: [ (7 * 1) + ( * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5) ] / 9 = 1.9<br><br>• **Jeremy Anderson, Mule Deer Foundation:** Supports the Division recommendations as presented in its entirety. In support of allowing the Biologists to do their job and then making appropriate recommendations.<br><br>• **Brayden Richmond, representing himself.** With regarding to Pine Valley, interesting we are recommending a slight decrease in permits. The Buck to Doe ratio wouldn't warrant that, but it shows we are taking more factors into consideration, including the long-standing drought. We are seeing more drastic recommendations with better data.<br>  • Beaver West: Has a lot of faith in Mike. Never monitored this as a standalone unit. This unit has far fewer Deer than it's ever had historically. Seeing the East side increase, but not the West. Would like to see permits decrease to 500. |

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| | • **John Bair, SFW:** Beaver West – move forward with permit increases a bit more cautious. SFW recommends 500 permits, rather than 900. People are excited about weapon restrictions and what that might do.<br>• Leave San Juan and Oak Creek alone – no increase or decrease.<br>• Biologists are put in a tough position trying to make the public happy. Appreciates the Biologists efforts.<br>• Supports the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented.<br><br>• **Nick Dax, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.** Supports the Division's proposal. Follows science.<br><br>• **Curtis Barney,** representing the East side of the Beaver since the late 1900's, specifically Panguitch and Circleville. Wife recently passed away and encouraged him to continue attending RAC meetings and letting the RAC know what he is seeing on the landscape.<br>• Not seeing the number of Deer on the landscape that he has in the past.<br>• Doesn't believe the Board is seeing "what" he is seeing on the Beaver unit.<br>• Encourages the RAC to "see what we see".<br><br>• **Paul Marshall**: Concern is mainly for the Beaver West unit. Lifelong resident of Beaver County. Deer herd is not what it used to be.<br>• We don't have an idea of how many Deer are on the Beaver West.<br>• Has run cameras on this unit for the last 10 years, spends countless hours scouting during the summer. Hasn't seen 900 Deer in one year on the Beaver West in 10 years.<br>• Heartburn over 900 permits on this unit, also has heartburn over 500 permits on this unit.<br>• Believes there are five times as many Deer on the West side in November and December as there are in August. The Deer move.<br>• Still doesn't agree with Buck to Doe ratios that are set, but is coming around to the weapon restrictions.<br>• Questions how the Division looks at data and studies. Challenges the Division on their research. Utah manages differently than other of our surrounding states.<br>• Talked to 50 people today in Beaver, not one is in favor of the recommendations. The RAC's responsibility to represent the public. The public does not want 900 permits on the Beaver West, they don't want 1900 on Beaver East either. Feels 350-400 is more appropriate. |

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| | • **Logan Marshall**: Not a scientist. Has studied the scientific method and disappointed on how this research period is beginning, feels dramatic. You have to control the variables you can control when researching something. Understands what Kevin said, but feels this is dramatic.<br><br>• Not enough Deer to harvest the number of tags the DWR is proposing and still maintaining the Buck to Doe ratio. Especially when the herd is only starting to come back.<br>• If we are studying restricted weapons, why are we allowing our margins to be so thin on managing this herd.<br>• Urges RAC to propose a more bridled permit increase, closer to the number of what others who have recommended tonight.<br><br>• **Brian Johnson**: This is a social issue, 85% of what the RAC does is social. If you've got four Bucks per 100 Does, you're going to breed them. Science of this is not a fun hunt. Feels valuable information can be gleaned from this research project with 500 permits.<br>• Data shows people just want a permit, this is a General Season unit.<br>• Loves that the Division has branched out and is willing to try different things. Feels the RAC will come up with a great compromise. |
| **06:26:30** | **RAC Discussion**<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: On the SFW proposal, the Fillmore/Oak Creek Limited Entry was for no increase, keep it the same? The San Juan Limited Entry, no change? Which is below the 20% already, correct?<br>• Wanted to confirm they were not talking about General Season.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson**: Brother ran into a government trapper in Marysvale who killed a Cougar that had killed a bunch of Deer. Not sure if that was with the Division's help, but good on the division or whoever it was.<br>• 1800 permits was the total for the Beaver East and West last year. Division is asking for an increase of over 900 permits, which is over 50%.<br>• Something new. Went around the State last year and took power away from the RAC. The Division put this on the Agenda because they can. They can now increase or decrease permits by 20% without going through the RAC. They can increase it 20% now every year. Wrong to increase it by 50% the first year. |

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| | • At the very best, they should only increase 20% on the 1800, which is 2160. The unit was split, if that unit has less Deer, that's the percentage they should put on that unit.<br>• We can't put 900 permits on a unit when we don't know what the effects are going to be yet.<br>• With the fire on the Beaver unit, not all of the vegetation grew back last year, it probably will this year. It's been reseeded and will probably come back better this year. Should be considered as a drought situation.<br>• The Pine Valley has no increase of permits this year. Yet, what we are sold when they go around the state is that when we decrease Bucks, we increase Does. Now, there's not enough feed on the Pine Valley, they want to kill Bucks, so they're doing just the opposite on the Beaver unit. I'm not saying we should increase permits on the Pine Valley.<br>• Public doesn't come the RAC meetings anymore because they don't feel their voice matters anymore. The Northern part of the State decides what happens in the Southern part. It's wrong. The Southern RAC should have more say about what happens in the Southern Region.<br><br>• **Mike Grant:** We are not listening to people and what they want versus what they need. Hears we are managed socially often. Doesn't like to hear that someone didn't harvest a big enough of Buck or see big enough Deer.<br>• We don't manage consistently, we manage socially.<br>• Why are we starting so high at 900 permits? Believes we need to be conservative on the Beaver East and West units.<br>• What is going to happen if the burn scars flood? I guess the hunters and sportsmen have to take into account that that area may be shut down.<br>• The 20 % rule can be a drastic change or jump on a unit.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** Not a Scientist, but is a Rancher and spends a lot of time in the mountains.<br>• Served for six (6) years on the RAC.<br>• Grew up hunting Deer, but not seeing the herds in recent years. Believes Cougars and Elk have moved in and hurt the Deer herds. Deer herd didn't come back after the large Milford Flat fire.<br>• Mortified when she saw the recommended number of permits for the Beaver units. 500 permit are way too much as well.<br>• Drought conditions are present.<br>• Hopes Paula Richmond represents the Southern unit.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** This RAC did not pass the 20 % at our RAC meeting. |

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| | • We've asked the Division to do their job to the best of their ability. That's the research and science.<br>• It is up to us to make this work, socially.<br>• Is adjusting the Buck permit numbers on the Beaver going to save or kill a Deer herd? Probably not, but will affect hundreds of hunters on their hunts.<br>• Tradition, experience, trophy quality – all mixed in.<br>• The best we can do is make a definitive motion based on the overwhelming feedback we've received on the Beaver unit. Make a motion and stand behind it no matter how the Wildlife Board votes.<br><br>• **Chuck Chamberlain**: Are we only discussing the Beaver unit and accepting the remainder of the recommendations? Trying to be efficient.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson**: Are we even allowed to drop our recommendation below the 20 % at this point?<br>• Feels like this was pushed too far, the Southern Region should be listened should. Believes the Wildlife Board rubber stamps whatever comes through. We need to be on the same page and listen to people from this area. Wrong for other Regions to tell us how to manage the Southern Regions.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: Yes, Bryant. When it's highlighted yellow for Board action we can go up, down, below, etc.<br>• As RAC members, we are all volunteers. We need to hear from the public. SFW made a couple of recommendations for specific units. They collected feedback and met and came up with a recommendation. They are no different than the general public, that's how this process works. We need people to come to the meetings and provided feedback.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** Loves wildlife and livestock, that's where her heart is. We all have good intentions.<br>• Wants her grandchildren to learn to hunt on the Beaver West, without scopes the same way she did. They're excited about learning Archery. Doesn't want to always pick on the Division. |
| **06:45:05** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Bryant Johnson.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we reduce the permits on the Beaver West to 350 and 1600 on the Beaver East.** |

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| | **Passed 10-1, with Brooklyn Cox opposed.** (We should trust the Division and Biologists with their science and their recommendations).<br><br>The following motion was made by Bryant Johnson, seconded by Tammy Pearson.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Division's proposal, with the exception of no increases on the Oak Creek Limited Entry and San Juan Limited Entry over last year.**<br><br>**Passed: 10-1, with Chuck Chamberlain opposed.** (There was a lot of public input on the Beaver units. With the San Juan and Oak Creek, doesn't see why we wouldn't trust the Biologists and their recommendations). |
| **07:06:08** | **6) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>**- Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **07:06:37** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** How are the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep doing on the Wasatch Front?<br>• We speak to the alternate list, those who are contacted who would have been up next to draw. Assuming a permit is surrendered for whatever reason, you would then contact the next person in line. If you decide to do an emergency hunt, you have the option to utilize that same alternate list, correct?<br>• Is that list separated into two lists? Those who would have drawn in the bonus permit versus those who would have drawn a random permit?<br>• If half of the permits go to the guy with the most points, then the guy who is right below that max point holder doesn't get the call? It gets sent to a random guy, correct?<br><br>• **Rusty Robinson:** Received reports and tested six (6) Sheep. We haven't received a report of a dead sheep in over a month. Those mortalities were toward the southern end of the unit between Springville and Rock Canyon. We are cautiously optimistic, time will tell how that herd ends up.<br><br>• **Lindy Varney:** No, it is not divided out between bonus round versus regular round. The draw is redone, everyone gets new numbers. We do see a lot of people with high points go first through the alternate list because they have more points, so they have more chances to get a low draw number.<br>• Stays in the same draw order in the random side of the draw. |

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| | • **Bryant Johnson:** With regard to the Escalante unit, split into East and West. Are the majority of the sheep on the East? What is the reason for the difference in numbers on the East and West?<br>• We have two non-resident permits on that unit now. Thought we were at one permit for non-residents for 10% of the permits, correct?<br>• Can all non-residents be in the same pool? Combine all your non-residents for the Beaver Elk, for example. Then your max point holders would draw out, because 50% of them would go. They would then choose what weapon type, and so on depending on where they come out in the draw. Then if they didn't want an Archery tag because that's the only one that's left, they could turn it back. It would give the max point holders an option.<br><br>• **Rusty Robinson:** We flew the Escalante unit in 2023. For a few years before that we heard there were a disproportionate amount of hunters that were hunting that West side compared to the number of sheep that were there. And, they may be overharvesting that West side because it's easier to hunt. Last flight, we counted 35 Rams on the East and 14 on the West. This is an effort to try to distribute those hunts proportionately.<br>• Last fall, we looked at revamping how we were allocating residents and non-resident permits. Came up with a way that we thought would be fair that we could give a true 10% and, also give non-residents some bonus permits to apply for.<br>• We take the total number of permits for a given species and put non-resident permits on fewer units. So, it's a true 10%, but it's spread over fewer hunts. The idea is to have two permits every place we can, so there's a bonus point available.<br>• Internal point system committee, we can discuss this possible change. |
| **07:13:50** | **Public Questions:**<br><br>• **Brayden Richmond:** Doesn't agree with what the legislature has done to non-residents.<br>• Wildlife are a trust of the State. When we refer to non-residents as constituents, is that a fair definition?<br>• They don't have an entitlement to our wildlife and residents do.<br>• With disease outbreak among Sheep, it's due to the overwhelming wandering juvenile Ram Sheep when your populations get to high, is that correct?<br>• When we are in the middle of a disease outbreak and when we are trying to prevent disease outbreak, do we have anything in the current management plan to deal with that? |

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| | • **Rusty Robinson:** Non-residents pay their way, have an opinion if not a say.<br>• Correct. Data suggests a lot of the wandering are four and five year old Rams who want to breed, but those opportunities aren't there because there are more mature Rams on the unit who would beat them up.<br>• Not really. We have tried to call alternate hunters. Challenging at times, finding hunters who want to shoot a three to four year old Ram. Anytime we can, we'd like hunters to participate in this. We are going to reconvene the Sheep committee this year. |
| **07:17:20** | **Public Comments:**<br><br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 1 (50%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 1 (50%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Total votes: 2<br>• Weighted average: [ (0 * 1) + (1 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + 1 * 5) ] / 2 = 3.5<br><br>• **John Bair, SFW**: With regard to Sheep, SFW asks the Division to keep looking for ways to provide hunter opportunity on units where Sheep are sick. Even though they might not be trophy Sheep, let public have the opportunity to hunt rather than let them wander. A lot of people would love the opportunity to hunt Sheep of any size/age.<br><br>• **Brayden Richmond**: Nervous when he sees non-residents take a disproportionate percentage of permits. Sheep are difficult, there are so few permits, I understand the complaint. Should never be to the detriment of residents. Would like Utah to look at what other states are doing. Here's the total amount of Sheep permits – doesn't matter which unit they go to - once you run out of non-resident Sheep tags, they're gone. And, that way you would afford preference points. Take the whole and where they apply and pull that off the top as they draw tags.<br>• With the Sheep Committee coming up soon. Two ways we can deal with some of these disease events better. There are thousands of people that would love to harvest a juvenile Ram. In New Mexico, if you apply for a unit or species, there is a check box that comes up and asks if you would be willing to do a depredation hunt. These hunts may be challenging, they may be for a lesser animal, and you may be required to shoot the first animal you see. There are ways to |

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| | Pre-qualify this list. Also, look at some alternative methods to how we limit the Ram populations on these units to minimize the wandering juvenile, which is very challenging. |
| **07:22:53** | **RAC Discussion :**<br><br>• **Mike Grant:** Agrees with Brayden's comment with regard to the non-resident being detrimental to the resident tag. This should be addressed through Sheep Committee and have this alternate process. Has seen the check box asking to be an alternate for a depredation hunt. The Division knows where these Sheep are located, get hunters on them. Show them where the Sheep need to be harvested for disease control.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson:** Agrees that permits should go to residents and not disproportionately to non-residents. Non-residents should have the opportunity to hunt.<br>• There may be some different ways to look at this, just wants to see a discussion. Need to be creative.<br>• Non-resident in a lot of places and appreciates it when they try to keep things fair. Happy they didn't go as high as they could of with price increases for non-residents.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Gets a little messy with regard to non-residents, it's a product of the draw. Not sure if this could be changed in the Sheep plan. We are going to a new draw vendor soon, but doesn't believe the draw sequence will change. It's 50-50**,** with half going to the highest point holders. If you did a species as a whole, say non-residents could draw up to 10% of Sheep tags, it could be all five tags on the Escalante unit. There would be some things to figure out. Doesn't want to see the number of non-resident permits go higher than 10%, which it is not. It looks disproportionate, but in Utah we are used to looking at a hunt code and only a hunt code because that's the hunt I want.<br>• Every state does it different. Not enough permits to go around. Without non-resident funding, this would not be happening. Doesn't believe this could be just for Sheep or Goats.<br>• Part of that product is that non-residents can apply for all OIAL species.<br>• This is a product of setting hunt codes in November with "guesstimates" on the number of permits that will be set.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: What is the percentage of applications for residents versus non-resident?<br>• Is the change based on new legislation? |

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| | • **Lindy Varney**: For Sheep? We definitely have a lot more non-residents applying for Sheep as residents. Last year, we had 12,700 non-residents apply for Desert and only 8,600 residents. And, it's approximately the same for Rocky.<br><br>• **Rusty Robinson**: Under the old way, this year we would have issued 49 non-resident permits across all OIAL species. Under the new way, it's 48 permits. The biggest change comes in the number of units with non-resident permits. We would go from 41 to 22 for non-residents. Under the old system, they would have six bonus pools across all OIAL hunts. Under the new system, they would have 18. That triples the number of hunts for non-residents where they have a bonus permit available.<br>• Not due to new legislation. Plan was introduced last Fall. Getting feedback from the Board and non-residents as well. This is an effort to try to be fair to both sides.<br><br>• **Russell Gardner:** If a non-resident applies for all species, then move to Utah, do they keep all their points?<br>• That doesn't seem right.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Yes, they will keep all their points. They were able to being applying for all species 16 years ago. They may have 16 max points for all species. They may have one OIAL and one limited entry in the 20's. Once they move to Utah, they can only select one species. |
| **07:34:20** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Bryant Johnson, seconded by Tammy Pearson.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**<br><br>**Passed unanimously.** |
| **07:35:09** | **7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **07:36:25** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Chuck Chamberlain**: HAMSS Hunt. You are recommending 70 September Archery permits and 70 HAAMS permits. Are you getting feedback on how people feel about HAMSS hunts? |

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| | • **Dax Mangus**: We've received fairly positive feedback on the HAMMS hunts. For years, folks have said that in a lot of other states Archery Elk hunts are typically in September during the peak of the rut. In Utah, we haven't had a month long September Archery hunts. In Utah, we like to get creative with weapon types. Probably started with the HAMSS, stands for Handgun, Archery, Muzzleloader, Shotgun and Straight-walled Rifle and now we have the restricted weapons. We've seen good success rates as well.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: Is there an interest in increasing the late limited entry Elk hunt? Why is there some inconsistency? Some units have had increases the last few years, some have not.<br><br>• **Dax Mangus:** When we redid the Elk plan, we essentially have this December Archery hunt, which is notoriously a tough time to hunt Elk with a bow. Crusty snow, Elk are in remote areas. The most permits were turned in for this hunt. Relatively high success on some units, others were very low. Idea behind this hunt is that hunters would be less selective because of the timing and the difficulty of the hunt. We could issue more permits without having too much of an impact on harvesting more Bulls.<br>• No clear guidance in the plan on how many permits should issue. Standard limited entry permits, we manage to an average age of harvested Bulls.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: What's your breakdown between Archery, Muzzleloader and Rifle?<br>• So the 25% Archery includes the late season too?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: 25% Archery, 15% Muzzleloader, and the remainder Any Legal Weapon.<br>• Those are separate, above and beyond. We don't count the ages of those animals as part of our objective.<br><br>• **Bryant Johnson**: Is the HAMSS hunt a trial on the Elk or are you looking at putting those on some other units?<br>• When does that plan come back up?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: Right now there isn't any plan to expand that.<br>• It's a 10 year plan. Next summer we'll do our first plan review. |
| **07:42:06** | **Public Questions: None.** |

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| **07:42:12** | **Public Comments:**<br><br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 2 (50%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 2 (50%)<br>• Total votes: 4<br>• Weighted average: [ (2 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5) ] / 4 = 3<br><br>• **Nick Dax, Utah Backcountry Hunters and Anglers**: Supports the Division's Elk recommendations for 2025. Follows the science through the Division and allows hunter opportunity as long as the population allows it. |
| **07:43:55** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: Decent increase on the permits on the Beaver units and Panguitch Lake as well.<br>• My public is happy to see the increases, especially the livestock producers.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: Beaver East went from 86 to 95 permits and Panguitch went from 60 to 71 permits.<br>• On the Beaver East, the age objective continues to climb, with the average age of 9.6 years old. Large sample size. Cautious increases. |
| **07:45:21** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Mike Grant.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**<br><br>**Passed unanimously.** |
| **07:46:01** | **8) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |

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| **07:46:15** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Mike Grant:** You said 1750 pronghorn on the Parker Mnt. Primarily we manage Buck Deer with buck to doe ratio, and antelope we do those by population. What is the buck to doe ration on the Parker? Parker being a transplant unit, why don't we take more bucks and transplant more does the next season?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: We manage to average age of Buck pronghorn. Overall pronghorn population with doe harvest primarily looking at overall numbers of population objective. Buck to Doe on Parker Mnt. 52 buck per 100 does. When we make the recommendation we take into account the harvest rate from the previous year. I don't know that we look at the wounding, but biologist do.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Can you up the buck permits more with the confines of the three hunts?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus**: When conditions are good, we have a very productive pronghorn herd. We are a little conservative, committed and take managing to population objective. We don't want to hunt too hard and have a repeat of the situation where folks were frustrated. Maybe propose additional seasons in an effort to spread pressure out. We did transplant a lot of animals off the unit last year.<br><br>• **Verland King:** Where did you transplant these to?<br><br>• **Dax Mangus:** Harsh winter kill Cache unit winter 2022-2023, we moved a bunch to Cache, Paunsaugunt, SWD. Eastern region took some to a couple places. |
| **07:54:10** | **Public Questions:**<br><br>**None.** |
| **07:54:16** | **Public Comments:**<br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 1 (50%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 1 (50%)<br>• Total votes: 2 |

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| | • Weighted average: [ (1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5) ] / 2 = 3 |
| **07:54:47** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Mike Grant:** Room for growth, opportunity on Parker Mnt. Recommend increasing permits.<br><br>• **Verland King:** agree with Mike, increase tags. Hunt them and transplant out of state.<br><br>• **Brooklyn Cox:** Grew up hunting elk on the Dutton horseback. Likes the antelope hunt, easier hunt to take children on. Keep numbers high.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Antelope is a great opportunity species. |
| **08:00:39** | **MOTIONS:**<br>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Verland King.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we pass as presented with additional increase of 50 permits on Parker Mnt.**<br><br>**Passed, unanimous.** |
| **08:00:49** | **9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)<br>**- Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator**<br><br>Presented his recommendations and answered questions. |
| **08:00:59** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: How to you measure with the drought vs the numbers you propose?<br>• **Dax Mangus:** In this region we have a range, rather than a set number. Favorable conditions we manage to the upper end.<br>• **Tammy Pearson:** Elk are very migratory, travel a lot. How do you gauge the movement?<br>• **Dax Mangus:** They do move, makes it complicated to manage. Collar studies between clusters of units. See decent success rates. If there are trouble area people should speak with biologist.<br>• **Russell Gardner:** On Pine Valley elk management plan is 50, is that bulls or cows? Its triple that.<br>• **Dax Mangus:** Both. We could make a motion to increase. Pine Valley is a control unit.<br>• **Russell:** whats the success rates of the control? |

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| | • **Dax Mangus:** Not good, the permit holds don't seem to find elk.<br>• **Bryant Johnson:** Are we wanting to have a herd on the Pine Valley?<br>• **Dax Mangus:** Pine Valley is managed for Deer not as much for elk.<br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Is Boulder over objective?<br>• **Dax Mangus:** Objective is 1200-1700, recommended increase from 55 to 130 permits |
| **08:08:02** | **Public Questions:**<br><br>**None.** |
| **08:08:07** | **Public Comments:**<br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 3 (75%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 1 (25%)<br>• Total votes: 4<br>• Weighted average: [ (1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (3 * 5) ] / 4 = 4<br><br>**Troy Henry:** It's important to stay under objective during a drought year, Utah Farm Bureau supports antlerless recommendations.<br><br>**Nick Dax:** Utah Backcountry and Anglers support the decrease in doe permits, increase in antlerless elk permits. |
| **08:10:25** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Mike Grant:** Believes that the decrease doe permits by 50 and increase buck antelope permits on the Parker Mnt.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** You've done a good job on the drought issues. Supports antlerless recommendations.<br><br>• **Verland King:** When you transplant these antelope, do you transport all or mostly does.<br><br>• **Dax Mangus:** We used funnel trap, we took everything we got in the trap.<br><br>• **Verland King:** Go with proposed amount of antlerless tags, if not more.<br><br>• **Chuck Chamberlain:** Thanks the division. |

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| | • **Tammy Pearson:** On Beaver unit committee, so division had flexibility. Thinks division has done a good job.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** commenting to Mike to keep in mind there are 7 different hunts on 3 units, if he wants an increase of permits proposed, 25 won't split well. |
| **08:16:35** | **MOTIONS:**<br>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we accept as presented, with the exception of taking recommendation from bios to reduce by 50 permits**<br><br>**Failed, lack of a second.**<br><br>The following motion was made by Russell Gardner, seconded by Tammy Pearson.<br><br>**Motion: Accept as presented by division and add 15 additional cow permits on Pine Valley.**<br><br>**Passed, 6:5 No vote: Chuck Chamberlain, Chad Utley (unable to see others)** |
| **08:22:05** | **10) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations** (Action)<br>**- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **08:22:28** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• None |
| **08:22:34** | **Public Questions:**<br><br>• None |
| **08:22:38** | **Public Comments:**<br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 1 (100%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Total votes: 1 |

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| | • Weighted average: [ (0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5) ] / 1 = 5 |
| **08:22:55** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** You had an additional 48 private and 688 public?<br><br>• **Chad Utley:** Those would be the numbers you would be approving today, 3 additional private compared to last year and just over 100 additional public.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson**: I do like the private permit to the landowner. |
| **08:23:58** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Mike Grant.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we approve as presented.**<br><br>**Passed, unanimous.** |
| **08:24:25** | **11) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments**<br>(Action)<br>**- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **08:24:33** | **RAC Questions:**<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Can you give us a high level of why these changes needed to be made?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** This was part of house bill 202 that made changes to landowner permits. There is ability to give landowner vouchers if they have 4000-8999 acres of contiguous land. We he ability to set the criteria of if they would receive zero, one or two vouchers for elk. So we set out that criteria in here of what we would use as a division to determine how many elk vouchers they'd get.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Who is on that decision committee?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** The recommendation comes from the biologist, to Chad Wilson to the director's office. |

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| | • **Austin Atkinson:** It's a 3 year COR? Auto renewal?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** There is criteria that is looked at, reviewed again in 3 years<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** I am sure you have run the numbers to show how many will qualify. How you feel about the numbers?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** There are 38 landowners with more than 4000 acres, not determined if it is contiguous. Have until 7/1/2025 to apply.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson**: If they apply, if they have more than 9000 can they back out of the CWMU?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** No, it is capped at 8999 acres.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** So they'd have to split their land in order to qualify.<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** There is a variance for those who don't reach 10,000, there is a program for them.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Will we get to see, as a RAC, their age objective of the harvested elk versus the unit?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** We will bring back the numbers and ages on those permits.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** If a landowner shoots and elk that is under the age objective, that hurts them and they may lose permits.<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** There are considerations, but is we see the age class of the unit being brought down then yes we would review that.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** They must follow limited entry seasons and weapon types on that permit or do they pick one hunt?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** They choose one hunt under current hunt structure.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Good on their private land only?<br><br>• **Chad Wilson:** Correct. They have to have the elk on their land during the hunt, may weed out applicants.<br><br>• **Russell Gardner**: Can they sell the vouchers? |

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| | • **Chad Wilson:** Yes<br>• **Bryant Johnson:** There is no way to stop this? Legislature passed this.<br>• **Chad Wilson**: Yes, you can weigh in on the criteria put forth but the bill was passed in legislature. Division will make the decision.<br>• **Bryant Johnson:** Does this benefit the public in any way?<br>• **Chad Wilson:** No, it's for the landowner. Landowners may be more tolerating of the wildlife, the wildlife could then spill out onto public land and be available to the public.<br>• **Austin Atkinson:** They can't claim mitigation or depredation if they are receiving these tags?<br>• **Chad Wilson:** Yes, that is one of the criteria we look at.<br>• **Austin Atkinson:** If they are under that threshold, those are handled diff?<br>• Do you have an estimate of how many of those there are going to be?<br>• **Chad Wilson:** Last year there was a draw, so 5% additional tags that go into the draw, they split 50/50. If you have over 4000 acres half go there and the other half go to the under 4000. Very max would be 160 tags.<br>• **Austin Atkinson:** That is the up to 5% additional?<br>• **Chad Wilson:** If you have 6 permits and only one landowner applies and he has over 4000 acres the 3 that were for under 4000 don't get issued.<br>• **Austin Atkinson:** If you split the 3 under, 3 over plus the 2 guaranteed ones…I guess not guaranteed but the division could issue more?<br>• **Chad Wilson:** Yes. |
| **08:34:25** | **Public Questions:**<br>• None |

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| **08:34:30** | **Public Comments:**<br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 1 (100%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Total votes: 1<br>• Weighted average: [ (0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (1 * 4) + (0 * 5) ] / 1 = 4 |
| **08:34:43** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** As a landowner, I think wildlife has benefitted of private land for years and years, I don't have one qualm about landowners benefitting from wildlife.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** I have a concern about the criteria, it puts the division in the hot seat. Started with that on the CWMU, some grey areas you can get variances. Then have to crack down on the percentages and put exact calculations on how we come up with permits. Feels bad for who has to listen to the landowner when they get permits cut and come saying I have already presold the permit. Messy. |
| **08:36:54** | **MOTIONS:**<br>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Tammy Pearson.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we approve as presented**<br><br>**Passed, unanimously** |
| **08:37:26** | **12) Expo Rule Amendments**<br>(Action)<br>**- Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief**<br><br>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions. |
| **08:44:11** | **RAC Questions:**<br>• **Chuck Chamberlain:** What is the percentage to the contractor?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** 20% goes to cost, the other 70% has to be spent on Utah wildlife. Half through an agreement with the division, the other half they have more discretion but it is audited. |

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| | • **Chuck Chamberlain:** You mentioned variance for virtual expo, you don't have to be at the Expo to draw?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** One time during COVID that it had to be virtual. It ruins draw odds, these are Utah permits, and it favors Utah res. We want to keep that in person. A really rare circumstance where it would go virtual.<br><br>• **Russell Gardner:** Do these monies have a timeline?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** Two year lapsing, where conservation permits have to be spent within 2 fiscal years of when the money was generated. That same doesn't exist for expo permits, does have to be accounted for every year. Not been huge amounts of carryover.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** The WRI program has been incredible. That has to be accounted for during the fiscal year?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** When they commit it in WRI as long as the project happens that year, sometimes carried over to the following year. Goal is spend the money in the year allocated.<br><br>• **Tammy Pearson:** Commends the division on the WRI program.<br><br>• **Covy Jones**: Conservation Expo and CWMU associations, so landowners themselves donated 6.5 mill to habitat restoration on public and private lands. |
| **08:52:55** | **Public Questions:**<br>• **Brian Johnson**: Did you say these projects on private prop, with this money?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** Yes, not owned by division but manage sheep and part of our plan.<br><br>• **Brian Johnson:** Why is this money being used on private property?<br><br>• **Covy Jones:** When we look at things for the WRI we try to ignore property boundaries. If we are doing a project up to a property line and then stop at the private property when wildlife is using that property it wouldn't make sense. We use those funds and treat the whole area.<br><br>• **Brian Johnson:** Thank you |

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| **08:54:51** | **Public Comments:**<br>**Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments**<br><br>• Strongly agree: 1 (50%)<br>• Somewhat agree: 0 (0%)<br>• Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%)<br>• Strongly disagree: 1 (50%)<br>• Total votes: 2<br>• Weighted average: [ (1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5) ] / 2 = 3<br><br>• **Jeremy Anderson:** MDF, we support as presented in full. The money we have a little latitude with is still going to wildlife.<br><br>• **Troy Justison:** SFW, thankful to all who have allowed them to facilitate the draw these past few years. Clarify, these are not selling permits, this is the application fee, no different than what you pay when you apply for big game draw. This year we generated over $2M in application fees. Add in the three to one match with the Pittman Roberts money and it turns into over $6M, you can't generate that kind of money in the regular draw. These projects have less hoops to jump through. Less than a year to purchase and facilitate and build fences, wouldn't have been that quick if had to go through feds. No admission fees to apply, it is outside of the expo. We support the changes. |
| **08:59:35** | **RAC Discussion:**<br><br>• **Russell Gardner:** Back to CWD, education is a key. At expo reach out to sportsman. People need educated about CWD.<br><br>• **Austin Atkinson:** Expo permits is a fundraiser for Utah's wildlife. |
| **09:01:25** | **MOTIONS:**<br><br>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Russell Gardner.<br><br>**MOTION: I move that we approve as presented.**<br><br>**Passed unanimously** |

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| **09:01:57** | **Next Board Meeting: May 01, 2025**<br>**Next Meeting: May 20, 2025 6:00 p.m. Richfield DNR Building** |
| **09:02:40** | **Meeting adjourned.** |

# RAC AGENDA
## April 16th, 2025

The meeting will stream live at https://youtube.com/live/v6MarYbQtvg

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. Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments — ACTION
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

5. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 — ACTION
   – Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

6. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 — ACTION
   - Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator

7. Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 — ACTION
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

8. Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025 — ACTION
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

9. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 — ACTION
   - Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator

10. 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations — ACTION
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

11. Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments — ACTION
    - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

12. Expo Rule Amendments — ACTION
    - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief

**Regional Presentations – Informational Only**

Upper San Rafael WMA Habitat Management Plan – SER ONLY
- Colton Taylor, Impact Analysis Biologist

Presentations can be viewed at https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html
Public Comment can be provided by clicking the link under the presentation.

**NR RAC** – April 9th, 5:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. #240, Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/VLDRQu0_f9w

**CR RAC** – April 10th, 5:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
https://youtube.com/live/prARdsU0pqM

SR RAC – April 15th, 5:00 PM
Hunter Conf. Center Charles R Hunter Room
Southern Utah University
https://youtube.com/live/cma_xn3t6xE

**SER RAC** – April 16th, 5:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E Main St., Green River
https://youtube.com/live/v6MarYbQtvg

**NER RAC** – April 17th, 5:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
https://youtube.com/live/VHfrupht8xI

**Board Meeting** – May 1st, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
https://youtube.com/live/bAdTp2I2E_I

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

**April 16th, 2025**

**Summary of Motions**

## Action Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Brad Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To approve the agenda and minutes from last meeting.

## Action Item 2: Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

## Action Item 3: Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025

- The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Tyler Gilson and failed 5-2.
  Motion: To move Beaver West to 600.

- The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 6-1.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

## Action Item 4: Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Cache Stallings and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To have the board solicit DWR to look at depredation hunts for OIAL species.

## Action Item 5: Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025

- The following motion was made by Cache Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and failed 5-4.
  Motion: To increase the number of tags on the Beaver unit by 6.

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

**Action Item 6: Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025**

- The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Steve Duke and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

**Action Item 7: Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025**

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

**Action Item 8: 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

- The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

**Action Item 9: Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments**

- The following motion was made by Cache Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 5-3.
  Motion: To recommend the Wildlife Board add line items stating that if a permit is obtained for a specific species and permit type points are lost and the waiting period is incurred.

- The following motion was made by Tyler Gilson, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed 6-2.
  Motion: To approve the remainder of the permit rule as presented.

**Action Item 10: Expo Rule Amendments**

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Steve Duke and failed 6-2.
  Motion: To suggest the Wildlife Board opens permits to Utah online.

- The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Tyler Gilson and passed 7-1.
  Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
April 16, 2025
Attendance

## RAC Members

Eric Luke – Chair
Dana Truman – Vice Chair
TJ Cook –Exec Secretary
(Standing in for Chris Wood)
Tyler Gilson
Charles Fischer
Brad Richman
Cash Stallings
Darren Olsen
Scoot Flannery
Steven Duke

## Board Member

Kent Johnson

## RAC Excused

Jack Cantsee Jr.
Justin Ivins
Chris Wood
Joe Sacco
Kirk Player
Sunshine Brosi
Lynn Sitterud

## Division Personnel

Covey Jones
Chad Wilson
JD Abbott
Joe Christensen
TJ Cook
Dax Mangus
Dustin Mitchell
Wade Paskett
Colton Taylor
Brad Crompton
Rusty Robinson
Ian Montgomery
Brandon Behling
Kyler Stilson

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
**April 16, 2025**
**Minutes**

**00:06:36** **1)** Chairman Eric Luke Called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and read a statement.

**00:09:25** **2) Regional Update – (**Informational)

The decision was made to forgo the regional update for the sake of time.

**00:09:37** **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update given by Erik Luke** (Informational)

Link on website to view.

**00:12:15** **4) Approval of Agenda and Minutes** (Action)

The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

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

**00:12:45** **5) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus offered to summarize the presentation.

**00:13:13** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Origination of the agreement with the town of Alton.

**00:16:37** **Public Comment/Questions**

None

**00:16:46** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**00:17:14** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

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

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**00:18:07** **6) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation.

**00:18:58** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Process for new Myton hunt and hunters still being limited to 1 buck deer tag. Numbers for the Beaver West unit. Percentages for the permit split between ALW and Archery along with the possibility of changes. Results from mandatory harvest data. Beaver West anticipated success rate. Reason for 15-17 buck to doe ratio objective. How many units fell outside of the 20% change rule.

**00:30:30** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**00:30:36** **Public Comments/Questions**

John Bair, SFW – Beaver West permit increase could be less aggressive with 500 permits. Asked to leave Oak Creek and San Juan limited entry units as they are.

Jeremy Anderson, MDF – Supports recommendations. Excited to see biologists able to do what they are supposed to do

**00:34:26** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Permit increases and decreases affecting study. Vote results from SR RAC. Managing in accordance with the plan regarding Beaver units. The plan was agreed upon with the 20% variance. Hesitancy regarding increase. More opportunities with archery increase. Concern regarding an overload of people for the landscape on Beaver West. Reason for La Sal increase. Support to be aggressive on the La Sal unit due to CWD.

**00:49:55** The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Tyler Gilson and failed 5-2.

**MOTION:** To hold the Beaver West permits to 600 rather than 900.

**00:52:58** The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**00:55:05** **7) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Rusty Robinson did not have any additional information.

**00:55:14** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Discussion regarding Wasatch West and how much lead time would be given for extra permits. Alternate lists and notifications. Increase for San Rafael North bighorn sheep and herd management.

**00:59:55** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**01:00:05** **Public Comments/Questions**

John Bair, SFW – Disease outbreak is heartbreaking. Find ways to increase opportunities, specifically for sheep. Find a way to take advantage of diseased rams and get more hunters on the mountain.

**01:03:13** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Would much rather see sportsmen willing to use their points regarding diseased sheep.

**01:07:06** The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**01:08:22** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To solicit the board to ask the division to consider opportunities for depredation hunts for once-in-a-lifetime species.

**01:11:07** **8) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation.

**01:12:19** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Differences from the last 2 years of data. Insight regarding any positive or negative results after stopping the multi-season any bull elk permits. Reason for Beaver unit recommendations.

**01:17:24** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**01:17:37** **Public Comments/Questions**

John Bair, SFW – Asked that permit numbers on the San Juan unit be left as is.

**01:18:34** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

San Juan age objectives for the last 3 years. Bull to cow ratios for that unit. San Juan is a hard unit to draw and not increasing tags prevents opportunity. Would like to see if satisfaction and herd management was improved after eliminating multi-season permits for any bull units. Genetics on the San Juan unit are not as prevalent as they once were. Age vs genetics determining top-end bulls and other factors to consider affecting bulls. Increase giving opportunity and helping point creep. Beaver unit over age objective. Balancing quality vs quantity.

**01:37:06** The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and failed 5-4.

**MOTION:** To increase the number of permits recommended for the Beaver unit by 6.

**01:44:04** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**01:44:49** **9) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus did not have any additional information about the presentation.

**01:45:06** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Splits for Parker Mountain buck permits. Elaboration on pronghorn relocation and permit recommendations for units they were moved to. High mortality rates. Susceptibility to predators.

**01:54:42** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**01:55:10** **Public Comments/Questions**

None

**01:55:15** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

**01:55:26** The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Steven Duke and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**01:56:34** **10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025** (Action)

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation.

**01:56:46** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Possibility of bringing back the option given the past, when an antlerless permit allowed harvest during some antlered hunts. Chalk Creek East Canyon and Morgan are not increasing. Private land only permits and antlerless control. Reason for not decreasing permits on the Book Cliffs unit. Reason for Anthro and Wasatch recommendations. Process for changing the objective within a unit plan.

**02:06:48** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

None

**02:06:43** **Public Comments/Questions**

Jaron Hanson, Utah Farm Bureau – Staying under objective is important especially during times of drought. Supports the recommendations.

**02:07:36** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Glad to see where recommendations are going with the Book Cliffs.

**02:08:36** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**02:17:07** **11) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations** (Action)

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

Chad Wilson did not have any additional information to add.

**02:17:35** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Increase in antlerless permits from other CWMU's other than Deseret, who did increase. Commitment from the division for the hunt planner to stay updated regarding CWMU units. Access to draw odds on the hunt planner.

**02:23:26** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

None

**02:23:26** **Public Comments/Questions**

None

**02:23:37** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Hunt planner and access to data and up-to-date information.

**02:25:56** The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**02:26:44** **12) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments** (Action)

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

Chad Wilson summarized the presentation

**02:27:38** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Difference between the 5% allocation and the HB202 5% quota. The 5% is additional and not coming out of the public percentage. Concerns with additional quotas.

**02:31:11** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**02:31:28** **Public Comments/Questions**

None

**02:31:32** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Appreciation for some objectives of the program working to accomplish tolerance for wildlife rom landowners. The public has benefited. Possibility to help increase public opportunity, which includes losing points and incurring the waiting period for landowner permits.

**02:39:02** The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 5-3.

**MOTION:** To recommend that the Wildlife Board add line items stating that if a landowner permit is obtained for a specific species and permit type, points would be lost and a waiting period incurred.

**02:55:29** The following motion was made by Tyler Gilson, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed 6-2.

**MOTION:** To approve the remainder of the permit rule as presented.

**02:58:12** **13) Expo Rule Amendments** (Action)

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

Covy Jones summarized the presentation

**02:59:52** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Expo permits accounted for and alignment with the draw odds reports. Online and virtual options. Discussion about moving the expo to other cities in Utah. Possibility of Utah residents applying online.

**03:08:38** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

TJ Cook summarized the public comments received.

**03:09:02** **Public Comments/Questions**

Troy Justesen, SFW – Supports recommendations, especially benefits to waterfowl and upland game.

Jeremy Anderson, MDF – Supports the recommendations and appreciates the money going towards WRI.

**03:12:40** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

**03:12:50** The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Steve Duke and failed 6-2.

**MOTION:** To suggest the Wildlife Board opens permits to all of Utah online.

**03:14:55** The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Tyler Gilson and passed 7-1.

**MOTION:** Accept the division's proposal as presented.

**02:58:12** **14) Upper San Rafael WMA Habitat Management Plan** (Informational)

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

Colton Taylor summarized the presentation.

**03:17:15** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Elaboration on livestock grazing management, fence maintenance and work with SITLA and BLM. Plans for invasive species removal. Dedicated hunter projects. Compliments to the WMA and its potential.

**03:21:16** The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

# Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

**April 17th, 2025**

| RAC Present | RAC Excused | RAC Not Present |
|---|---|---|
| Jordan McMahon | Dwayne Davies | |
| Mark Chynoweth | Brad Horrocks | |
| Richard Buehler | Tim Ignacio | |
| Eric Major | Rebekah Jones | |
| Grizz Oleen | | |
| Jake Huber | | |
| Nathan Crapo | | |
| Ritchie Anderson | | |
| Natasha Hadden (Online) | | |

**Wildlife Board**

Paula Richmond (Online)

**DWR Staff Present**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Anthony Christianson | Randall Thacker | Pat Rainbolt |
| Tonya Kieffer-Selby | Derrick Ewell | Rusty Robinson |
| Phil Tuttle | Dallon Chistensen | Matt Fackrell |
| Mark Martinez | Covy Jones | Dax Mangus |
| Darren Debloiss | Miles Hanberg | Caitrin Day |
| Clint Sampson | Online- Levi Watkins | Online- Lindy Varney |
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|---|---|
| **00:00:00** | **1) Welcome and introductions by RAC Chairman, Grizz Oleen.** |
| **00:07:34** | **2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes**<br>● The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Eric Majors, and passed unanimously:<br><br>**MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented. Unanimously** |
| **00:08:20** | **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update**<br>● Grizz Oleen read the motions summary from the January 9th, 2025 Wildlife Board meeting. |
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| **00:11:00** | **4) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments**<br>● Presented by Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator<br>● Dax did a brief summary of the amendments to the rule. |
| **00:14:22** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● Questions were asked regarding the hide, spinal column and head being transported into Utah from CWD positive states.<br>● A question was asked about transplanting deer from a hunting restricted area. Along with research into the possibility of CWD resistant deer. |
| **00:17:55** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No questions from the public |

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| **00:18:05** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online. |
| **00:18:32** | *Public comment*<br>● No Public comments |
| **00:18:46** | *RAC discussion*<br>● Grizz made a comment about the work the state is willing to do to help hunters with bringing in heads from CWD positive states. He would like to see a little more education for the public on removing the brain stems. |
| **00:19:45** | *MOTION:*<br>● The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Mark Chynoweth and passed unanimously.<br>● **MOTION: To accept the Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments as presented by the Division.** |
| **00:20:30** | **5) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>● Presented by Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator<br>● Dax gave a brief update on the new Deer Management Plan |
| **00:21:45** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● A question in regards to Buck to Doe ratio and population was asked.<br>● Body conditions and scoring in along with conception rates from premium vs general units was also asked.<br>● A question about buck management permits on limited entry units, diamond mountain permit reductions, and extended archery permit numbers.<br>● The RAC asked Dax to briefly update on the new Myton hunt.<br>● What is the percentage of Dedicated Hunter vs general season permits? |
| **00:40:05** | *Questions from the public*<br>● A question was asked about the Pansagaunt and management, along with the average age range harvested on management buck hunts. |

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| **00:44:00** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online. |
| **00:44:55** | *Public comment*<br>● A comment on Oquirhh's and San Juan permit numbers. Along with the 900 Permit increase to Beaver West with a suggestion to increase by 500 instead, evaluate and possibly add the rest later.<br>● A comment was made about the management buck hunt on the Pansagaunt and the age of bucks harvested. Suggestions that the permit numbers be split more liberally between archery and muzzleloader to target the older bucks before they migrate. |
| **00:49:50** | *RAC discussion*<br>● One RAC member addressed that we're 100,000 under objective. To change buck to doe ratio, we either kill more bucks or raise more does. Myton hunt was the right decision, especially concerning the CWD in the area, maybe even encourage a higher kill rate. Agreed with SFW, boosting tag number if at objectives, but unless we are at objective, lean to caution.<br>● Another asked about the Beaver West/ East permit total is 2800, what is the increase there? 1000 permit increase for the Beaver units, East and West.<br>● A RAC member addressed the lack of public attendance.<br>● Also a comment was made on the public's input outside of RAC meetings about the quality of animals harvested vs hunting opportunities. |
| **00:59:35** | *MOTION:*<br>● The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson, seconded by Eric Majors and carried 7-1<br>● RAC members that opposed, were allowed to state why.<br>● **MOTION: To accept the Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented with the exception to the Beaver West unit, decrease the proposed increase by half (450 increase instead of the 900)** |

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| **01:02:20** | **6) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>● Presented by Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator<br>● Went to questions, no update or brief description. |
| **01:02:44** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● A question was asked about the Big Horn Sheep non-residence permits.<br>● Could alternates be notified for Antelope Bison permits, or even for all once-in-a-lifetime permits?<br>● Asked for an update on the Wasatch big horn sheep.<br>● How is our mountain goat population on the Uintas?<br>● What is the bison success rate in the Bookcliffs, Roadless? |
| **01:17:00** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No questions from the public |
| **01:17:10** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg provided a summary of responses received online. |
| **01:17:38** | *Public comment*<br>● A comment was made to ask the division to continue getting the public out hunting, to help "burn" points. |
| **01:19:25** | *RAC discussion*<br>● A couple comments were made about concern for the bison in the roadless and its management. |
| **01:22:43** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made by Eric Majors, seconded by Mark Chynoweth and passed Unanimously<br>● **MOTION: to accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented** |
| **01:23:20** | **7) Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>● Presented by Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator<br>● Brief reminder of the state wide elk management plan |

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| **01:24:18** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● A question was asked about the harvest rates for the state.<br>● How was the number of private land permits in the valley determined, also how the private land cow permits were received?<br>● How is the feedback on the late and early season unlimited permits, along with success rates? |
| **01:32:20** | *Questions from the public*<br>● A question was brought up about the Book Cliffs cow hunt for the older cows, bull to cow ratios and body conditions for the same unit. |
| **01:37:10** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg provided a summary of comments received online. |
| **01:37:45** | *Public comment*<br>● Commented on the Book Cliffs harvest of more spikes than bulls, and forage conditions. |
| **01:40:00** | *RAC discussion*<br>● No RAC discussion |
| **01:41:57**<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>**01:45:04** | *Motion:*<br>● A motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Richard Buehler, and passed unanimously<br>● **MOTION: During the elk management plan, we'd like the board to review the spike general hunt whether to have a year rotation on certain units.**<br>o There was a discussion on the motion<br>● The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson, seconded by Nathan Crapo and passed unanimously.<br>● **MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented** |
| **01:45:41** | **10 Minute Break** |

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| **01:58:00** | **8) Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2025**<br>● Presented by Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator<br>● No overview presented |
| **01:58:50** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● Questions such as, how has the coyote bounty been helping the pronghorn overall numbers? When do you find the best time to do pronghorn transplants? Where are we with the population vs objective of the Nine Mile, Anthro, and Myton bench talked about. |
| **02:05:30** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No public questions |
| **02:05:45** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg summarized the public comment received online. |
| **02:06:40** | *Public comment*<br>● No public comments |
| **02:06:45** | *RAC discussion*<br>● No discussion |
| **02:07:00** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson and seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously<br>● **MOTION: To support the Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented.** |
| **02:07:32** | **10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations**<br>● Presented by Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator<br>● No update or review |
| **02:07:53** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● Questions mostly pertained to antlerless elk. These included a question about private land permit sales, the Bookcliffs unit, older elk harvests and |

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| | the average age of harvest for that unit and what is the conception rate vs body condition? |
| **02:16:15** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No public questions |
| **02:16:30** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg summarized the feedback received online from the public. |
| **02:16:54** | *Public comment*<br>● One comment card, commenter stated "I'm good" |
| **02:17:15** | *RAC discussion*<br>● Comments remained on cow elk mentioning such ideas as to see if the committee could come up with an incentive to harvest the older cow elk.<br>● A comment was made about public feedback on the objective in the Bookcliffs unit, that they (the public) would rather not see any cow hunts, when we are that below on our objectives. |
| **02:21:49** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made byRitchie Anderson and seconded by Eric Majors and passed unanimously.<br>● **MOTION: To accept the division's proposal on the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented** |
| **02:22:29** | **11) CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**<br>● Presented by Darren Debloiss, SRO Wildlife Section Manager |
| **02:23:15** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● No questions from the RAC |
| **02:23:30** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No questions from the public |
| **02:23:40** | *Online Comment Summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg summarized the comments received online. |
| **02:23:57** | *Public comment*<br>● No public comments |

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| **02:24:00** | *RAC discussion*<br>● No discussion |
| **02:24:15** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made by Eric Majors and seconded by Jake Huber and passed unanimously.<br>● **MOTION: To accept the Divisions CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025** |
| **02:24:52** | **12) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments**<br>● Presented by Presented by Darren Debloiss, SRO Wildlife Section Manager<br>● Landowner bull permit vouchers review and how to determine how many permits landowners can receive (1-2) |
| **02:25:45** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● A few questions pertaining to the difference of these land owner permits versus the current LOA program were asked and the requirement to allow public hunters on private properties.<br>● How the permit cycle will be managed as well as tracking the age of bulls harvested and if a permit is obtained for a certain species/type, will the permit holder or landowner lose points and enter a waiting period? What is the division's stance on that at this time? |
| **02:32:27** | *Questions from the public*<br>● No questions from the public |
| **02:32:32** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg summarized the comments received online. |
| **02:32:55** | *Public comment*<br>● No public comments |
| **02:33:00** | *RAC discussion*<br>● A member of the board would not support them (landowners) losing points if they have been putting in for hunts. They have been providing habitat for these animals. |

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| | ● Another stated that the people feel like the system is broken, because legislation comes in and throws it down our throats and we have to accept it. |
| **02:36:13**<br><br>**02:46:05** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made by Jake Huber and Seconded By Richard Buehler passed 5-3<br>● RAC members that opposed, were allowed to state why.<br>● **To have the Wildlife Board to put into the action log, if a permit is obtained for certain species, would the permit holder lose their points for that species.**<br>o There was a discussion on the motion<br>● The following motion was made by Jake Huber and seconded by Eric Majors and passed unanimously .<br>● **MOTION: To accept the Division's Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments as presented.** |
| **02:46:25** | **12) Expo Rule Amendments**<br>● Presented by Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief |
| **02:46:50** | *Questions from the RAC*<br>● A couple questions were asked about the 35% that contractors keep, and if the money goes back into projects. Do those projects need DWR approval? The RAC asked for examples and how the money is tracked.<br>● Is there really a need to increase the application fee, ten dollars?<br>● If approved, would it remove other permits?<br>● How many Once-in-a-lifetime and limited entry permits go through this program? |
| **02:56:19** | *Questions from the public*<br>● Was the application fee increase from the division or the contractors and the impact it could have on the contractor? |
| **02:58:06** | *Online comment summary*<br>● Miles Hanberg summarized the comments received online. |

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| **02:58:20** | *Public comment*<br>● In favor of the expo permits, but not the increase in the application fee.<br>● MDF approves and supports the decision made by the Division. He goes on to describe a few areas the five dollar fee has been positively used and that 2.5 million was able to help fund with WRI projects.<br>● SWF supports work the division has put into this. There have been great opportunities we've been able to spend some of this money on, working with the division. When there's a need for waterfowl projects, restoration we've been able to step in and help out and it's been really cool. And continues with other positive feedback and usage of funds. |
| **03:02:37** | *RAC discussion*<br>● Expo permits are favored, but it was discussed the opportunity of online applications along with in-person.Ok with the increase and suggested increasing it more, and why. Not all members of the public that would like to attend the Expo can for various reasons, so look into applying and validating online.<br>● Talked about point creep and its relevance to Expo permits along with conservation permits and their affordability and availability to the public. Suggested to put together a committee to look into it.<br>● Another RAC member stated he didn't want to see the application fee raised and why.<br>● Another stated he had mixed feelings on the increase, they can see why the increase was presented and where the money can be spent, but not sure how much more the public is willing to spend.<br>● Is more money made at "sheep camp" than other ones? An explanation of the "Sheep Camp" was given. |
| **03:20:00** | *Motion:*<br>● The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden and seconded by Jordan McMahon and motion 4-5 failed.<br>● **MOTION: To accept the Division's Expo Rule Amendments as Presented.** |

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| **03:25:00** | ○ There was a discussion on the motion<br>An amendment was suggested and made:<br>● The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson Seconded by Eric Majors motion passed 6-2<br>○ Members were allowed to explain why they voted against<br><br>● **MOTION: To accept the Division's Expo Rule Amendments as presented with the flexibility of the contractor to allow online validation up to 50 of the 200 permits.** |
| **03:26:25** | **Regional Presentations, Information Only** |
| **03:26:45** | Little Montes WMA Habitat Management Plan - NER Only<br>Presented by: Pat Rainbolt- Habitat Section Manager<br>29 wma in region, 180,000 acres, each one of these properties has its own management plan. Spoke about the process and timeline to update/revise management plans.<br>Was asked about how many people visit the WMA's. No actual number available.<br>A discussion was had about the production on Montes Creek and the possibilities of a pivot. |
| **03:35:50** | Willow Creek WMA Habitat Management Plan - NER Only<br>Presented by: Pat Rainbolt- Habitat Section Manager<br>A discussion was had about non-game species being on and around the WMA.<br>And the possibility of using conservation funds to help with the feral horses in the area. |
| **03:43:20** | A motion to Adjourn made by Jake Huber and Eric majors seconded all in favor, passed unanimously. |
| **03:43:32** | **Adjourn** |

SPENCER J. COX
*Governor*
DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
**JOEL FERRY**
*Executive Director*
**Division of Wildlife Resources**
**RILEY PECK**
*Division Director*

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

DATE: April 24, 2025

**SUBJECT: 2025 Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) Buck and Bull permit correction recommendations**

Three CWMUs added additional acreage and asked for additional buck and bull permits for fall of 2025. The acreage increases were added, but due to an oversight, the permit increases were not recorded at that time. The Division is supportive of these additional permits corresponding to the increased acreages. The following table summarizes the proposed permit changes.

| CWMU | Species and permit changes | Acres change |
|---|---|---|
| West Willow Creek | Deer +5, Bull elk +1 | +4,317 |
| Hiawatha | Bull elk +1 | +1,228 |
| Preston Nutter Ranch | Bull elk +4 | +2,650 |

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UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

| Region | CWMU | Species | Sex | Hunt Nbr | First Year | Rec Private | Rec Public | Rec Hunt Date | Rec Ratio | COR Type | Acres Private | Acres Public | Unit | County | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NERO | West Willow Creek Ranch | Deer | Buck | DB1309 | 2025 | 17 | 5 | 09/11 - 11/10 | 90:10:00 | Renewal | 23517 | 3200 | 10A | Uintah | 4 private, 1 public, 4,317 acres |
| NERO | West Willow Creek Ranch | Elk | Bull | EB3607 | 2025 | 3 | 1 | 09/01 - 10/31 | 90:10:00 | Renewal | 23517 | 3200 | 10A | Uintah | 1 private, 4,317 acres |
| SERO | Hiawatha | Elk | Bull | EB3526 | 2024 | 9 | 2 | 9/1 - 11/30 | 85:15:00 | Change | 17357 | 0 | 16B | Carbon | 1 private, 1,228 acres |
| SERO | Preston Nutter Ranch | Elk | Bull | EB3543 | 2024 | 21 | 3 | 09/01 - 10/31 | 90:10:00 | Change | 29501 | 0 | 11B | Carbon | 3 private, 1 public, 2,650 acres |