

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 12, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center

1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://meet.google.com/vfj-myrr-fkq>

AGENDA

Thursday, June 12, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Riley Peck, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Legislative Statute Updates
– Kyle Maynard, Assistant Attorney General | INFORMATIONAL |
| 6. Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours
– Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41
– Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 8. Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72
– Chad Bettridge, Division of Law Enforcement | ACTION |
| 9. CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests
– Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement
– Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Sage grouse translocation
– Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments
– Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 13. Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding
– Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 14. Election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 15. Other Business
– 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.

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: Scheduled for June 12, 2025

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: Scheduled for June 12, 2025

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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Use of Aerial Equipment

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Sheep Hunts due to disease outbreak

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look at procedures of how to contact/notify hunters when a hunt is available due to a lone sheep/disease outbreak. This is to be added to the Action Log and the division is to report back to the board.

Motion made by: Gary Nielson
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Private Landowner Vouchers/point loss and waiting periods

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

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/bAdTp212E>

AGENDA

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

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– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Riley Peck, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments
– Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025
– Dax Mangus, Big Game Species Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025
– Rusty Robinson, OIAL Species Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025
– Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025
– Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2024
– Dax Mangus, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments
– Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 13. Expo Rule Amendments
– Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 14. West Willow Creek CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendation
Hiawatha CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendation
Preston Nutter Ranch Buck and Bull Recommendation
– Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 15. Other Business
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Draft 5/1/2025
Wildlife Board Action Log

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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 End 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. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

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

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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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Use of Aerial Equipment

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Sheep Hunts due to disease outbreak

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look at procedures of how to contact/notify hunters when a hunt is available due to a lone sheep/disease outbreak. This is to be added to the Action Log and the division is to report back to the board.

Motion made by: Gary Nielson
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Private Landowner Vouchers/point loss and waiting periods

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Chad Wilson
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 1, 2025 Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting and the April 8, 2025 Wildlife Board Work Session as submitted.

3) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the recommendations for the Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 as presented by the Division.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the deer permit recommendations as presented with the Beaver West reduction as amended by the division.

5) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2025 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look at procedures of how to contact/notify hunters when a hunt is available due to a lone sheep/disease outbreak. This is to be added to the Action Log and the division is to report back to the board.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Once-in-a-Lifetime permit recommendations as presented by the Division.

6) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Bull Elk Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

7) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented by the Division.

8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bret Selman and passes unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented by the Division.

9) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Gary Nielson and passes 5 in favor with 1 recusal (Bret Selman).

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve as presented by the division, with the exception that we add in the criteria for HB202 tags to evaluate public benefit.

11) Expo Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Expo Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

12) West Willow Creek CWMU, Hiawatha CWMU and Preston Nutter Ranch CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendations (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendations as presented by the Division.

13) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 1, 2025 Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Attendance

Wildlife Board

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

RAC Chairs

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

Division Personnel

Mike Canning	Dallon Christensen	Covy Jones	Xaela Walden
Justin Shannon	Seth Magers	Rusty Robinson	Mike Kinghorn
Miles Hanberg	Staci Coons	Chad Wilson	
Ashley Green	Paige Wiren	Dustin Mitchell	
Chris Wood	Teresa Griffin	Mark Martinez	
Kevin Bunnell	Dax Mangus	Dallon Christensen	
Blair Stringham	Riley Peck	Sydney Lamb	
Jason Vernon	Jim Christensen	Kenny Johnson	
Kent Hersey	Lindy Varney	Mike Wardle	

Public Present

Troy Justensen	Jeremy Anderson
Angie Wonnacott	Troy Henrie
Kevin Norman	Tim Pile
Brandon Zundel	

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<https://youtube.com/live/QvH1qoTk1Qk>

- 00:07:58** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order and read a formal written meeting introduction. The Board members and Regional Advisory Council chairmen introduced themselves.
- 00:10:33** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.
- 00:11:05** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting and the April 8, 2025 Wildlife Board Work Session as submitted.
- 00:12:05** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Vice Chairman Nielson noted that several Action Log items are due in the Fall of 2025.
- 00:12:22** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director Peck gave Administrative Services, Habitat, and Wildlife section updates.
- 00:16:07** **5) Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 Amendments (Action)**
Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus opened the floor for questions.
- 00:16:29** **Board/RAC Questions**
There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.
- 00:16:41** **Public Comments**
Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.
- 00:17:08** **RAC Recommendation**
All RACs passed the rule amendments with dissenting votes from the Southern RAC.
- 00:18:26** **Public Comments/Division Clarification**
Public comments were accepted at this time. Dax clarified that at this time, the Division does not have any recommendations with regards to aerial hunting.
- 00:22:27** **RAC Summaries**

Chairman Dearth summarized the RAC recommendations.

00:22:42 Board Discussion

The Board asked if the issue that the member of the public raised in the public comments section should be put on the Action Log. The Board asked about rules regarding drone use.

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the recommendations for the Taking Big Game Rule R657-5 as presented by the Division.

00:27:13 6) Deer Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus commented that throughout the RAC meetings a lot of good feedback was received and conversations generated, and he noted that, because of those discussions, the Division adjusted the Beaver West Unit permit recommendation from 900 to 500.

00:29:28 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if the Division also looked at the Oak Creek and San Juan units. The Board also asked what would determine if and how permit recommendation numbers would change on the Beaver West unit if the new recommendation were passed, as well as how the Division will determine how many deer are on that particular unit.

Big Game Special Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey addressed the Board's question about deer movement and population data on the Beaver West unit.

Wildlife biologist Mike Wardle shared what the Division's current efforts are on the Beaver West unit.

The RAC asked, on the units where there are unit splits, are there enough collars on deer to better identify movement and migration of the animals, and if there are going to be studies conducted on the restrictive weapons units.

00:40:56 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

00:41:26 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying stipulations.

00:44:42 Public Comments/Division Clarification

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

time.

00:47:12 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth summarized the RAC recommendations.

00:47:57 Board Discussion/Questions

The Board asked about the permit number increase on the Fillmore Oak Creek Unit, and asked if the reason for the San Juan Unit increase was similar. The Board asked why the increase wasn't more aggressive.

The Board expressed appreciation for the public's input on the Beaver West Unit throughout the RAC process, the work the biologists put in to making the recommendation, and the resulting conservative approach to that unit's permit recommendation.

Chairman Dearth noted that the Board reads all public comments.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the deer permit recommendations as presented with the Beaver West reduction as amended by the division.

0:53:49 7) Once-in-a-Lifetime Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

OIL Coordinator Rusty Robinson opened the floor for questions.

00:54:20 Board/RAC Questions

There were not questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

0:54:27 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

00:54:48 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the permit recommendations with varying stipulations.

00:57:09 Public Comments/Division Clarification

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

00:58:27 Board Discussion/Questions

The Board asked if, in the plan, hunters could be enlisted to take diseased rams and ewes, and how the Division decides to initiate that course of action, and asked if there is a disease problem with the bighorn sheep herd in the Wasatch Mountains.

Need to go in a dispatch diseased bighorn sheep prefer to see hunters used to fulfill that action. Does The Board asked if a motion was needed to ask the Division to use hunters to dispatch diseased bighorn sheep.

The Board suggested that on the application process, there could be a box the applicant could check to indicate that they are willing to participate in the

opportunity to take a diseased bighorn sheep.

The Board asked if the Division intends to put into the plan that hunters will be used to take sheep that need to be culled due to a disease event.

Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney clarified that the Division has surplus applicants that could be contacted if the Division chose to use additional hunters to harvest bighorn

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look at procedures of how to contact/notify hunters when a hunt is available due to a lone sheep/disease outbreak. This is to be added to the Action Log and the division is to report back to the board.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Once-in-a-Lifetime permit recommendations as presented by the Division.

01:12:20 8) Bull Elk Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus opened the floor for questions.

01:12:31 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

01:12:46 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:13:06 Public Comments/Division Clarification

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

01:13:50 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying stipulations.

01:15:10 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth summarized the RAC recommendations.

01:15:37 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board asked the Division to comment on the Northeastern Region's spike general hunt suggestion.

The Board said that they received a lot of public comments about letting a unit "rest;" that is, not hunt the unit for a year, and then commented on what would be the downside to that strategy.

Chairman Dearth shared a comment about non-resident

The Board asked the Division to explain the permit number recommendation on the Beaver Unit.

The RAC asked the Division to explain cow elk harvest strategy.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Bull Elk Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

01:24:58 9) Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 (Action)

Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus opened the floor for questions.

01:25:13 Board Questions

The Board asked if pronghorn contract or carry chronic wasting disease.

The Board asked if the increase in tags will increase pressure on the animals to the point that pronghorn leave a unit, and how many years ago it was that hunters experienced that problem.

The RAC asked if the Division was considering creating additional harvest opportunity.

01:30:20 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:30:51 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the recommendations as presented with one stipulation in the Southern Region.

01:32:10 Public Comments/Division Clarification

There were no public comments at this time.

01:31:17 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth summarized the RAC recommendations.

01:3:30 Board Discussion

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antelope Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented by the Division.

01:33:22 10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025

Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus opened the floor for questions.

01:33:50 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

01:32:13 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:34:47 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the permit recommendations with varying stipulations.

01:36:21 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. There was no clarification needed at this time.

01:37:11 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth summarized the RAC recommendations.

01:37:30 Board Discussion

The Board asked the Division to clarify the recommendation on the Pine Valley Unit.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2025 as presented by the Division.

01:39:59 11) 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

Private Lands and Public Coordinator Chad Wilson opened the floor for questions.

01:40:17 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if cow harvest on CWMUs is getting better.

01:41:26 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

The Board noted that one public comment was about the 90/10 split on deer on CWMUs, so the Division explained the committee's 90/10 split program structure decision.

01:43:28 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed motions to accept the Division's recommendations with varying stipulations.

Chairman Dearth asked the Division to clarify the CWMU's COR requirement to update the Hunt Planner annually.

01:46:20 Public Comments/Division Clarification

There were no public comments on this agenda item. No clarification was needed at this time.

01:46:20 Board Questions/Discussion

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 4 in favor, with Bret Selman recusing himself.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2025 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.

01:47:15 12) Landowner Permit Rule R657-43 Amendments (Action)

Private Lands and Public Coordinator Chad Wilson explained that the amendments were a result of a law change in the 2025 Utah Legislative Session.

01:47:54 Board/RAC Questions

The RAC asked if the process has already started, who conducts the landowner draw, what land access a voucher allows, and if a landowner who owns 4,000 acres could split the land into 640-acre blocks.

The RAC also asked the Division to clarify that vouchers are only for hunting the specific property for which they were issued.

01:51:38 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:51:58 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed motions to accept the Division's recommendations as presented with varying stipulations.

Chairman Dearth asked the Division to address an access concern raised by the RACs, as well as the suggestion from RACs that hunters lose points if they participate in the landowner permit program.

Board discussed losing points and incurring a waiting period in different situations pertaining to this agenda item.

The Division clarified the strategy of creating hunting opportunity as it pertained to this agenda item.

Chairman Dearth suggested asking the Division to look into the loss of points on private lands hunts.

Board Questions/Discussion

The Board discussed what a loss of points strategy might look like, and how the Division might report to the Board on this issue. The Board also spoke in favor of a proposition of losing points going through the public process. The Board noted that the Sportsmen's Caucus spent time discussing public benefit.

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

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal

is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve as presented by the division, with the exception that we add in the criteria for HB202 tags to evaluate public benefit.

02:14:04 13) Expo Rule Amendment (Action)

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones addressed the Board.

02:14:36 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

02:14:46 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

02:15:08 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying stipulations.

02:16:46 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth asked the Division if the Division could adopt the Northeastern RAC's suggestion.

02:17:10 Public Comments/Division Clarification

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

02:19:28 Board Questions/Discussion

Chairman Dearth directed the Board to talk about the RACs' suggestion to allow Expo permit applicants to validate their application online rather than in-person.

Chairman Dearth thanked the Mule Deer Foundation for their conservation work.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Expo Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

**02:27:40 14) West Willow Creek CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendation (Action)
Hiawatha CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendations
Preston Nutter Ranch Buck and Bull Recommendation**

Private Lands and Public Coordinator Chad Wilson gave a short presentation.

This agenda item did not go through the public process.

02:30:10 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board asked

The following motion was made by Kent, seconded by Paula and

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Buck and Bull Recommendations as presented by the Division.

02:30:35 15) Other Business (Contingent)

There was no other business to discuss.

02:31:13 Meeting Adjourned

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

1) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments- Banking Hours

All Regions:

MOTION: I move we approve Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments-Banking Hours as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

2) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments-R657-41 (Action)

All Regions:

MOTION: I move we approve Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments-R657-41 as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

3) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments-R657-72 (Action)

NR:

MOTION: I move to remove the requirement that a federal permit be included in the application for a state permit, and that a clause be added to clarify that the state permit does not grant permission to operate on federal lands. The applicant must independently acquire permission to operate from the relevant land and management agency and have possession/copy of federal permits included in field requirements and eliminate Section E.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR:

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented, with the amendment that we re-word R657-72-3(2)(d) to identify which permit, federal or state, is required first.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR:

MOTION: I move that we accept the Divison's recommendations as presented and include the language provided by the Northern Region regarding the order of state and federal permits and strike section R657-72-3(2)(e).

VOTE: Passed 8-0 with one abstention

SER:

MOTION: To have DWR add language that requires guides to obtain all applicable federal land use permits and have it on them in the field. Strike the DWR's proposed language that says they must have permits in order to apply.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

MOTION: To strike R657-72-3(2)(e)
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

MOTION: To ask the Board to direct DWR to form a committee with interested parties, and the public that looks at how this rule will be implemented.
VOTE: Passed 6-2

MOTION: To have DWR clarify in rule that once an animal is down, packing out the animal can include as many people as needed.
VOTE: Passed 5-3

MOTION: To accept the rest of the division's proposal as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

NER:

MOTION: To approve as presented the outfitters, guides and spotters rule amendments, but to not require federal permits in the application materials for the state guiding license, but to require applicable permits from the relevant land management agencies and that the guides carry a copy of the federal permit while operating in the field, and the removal of section R657-72-3(2)(e).
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

4) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests (Action)

NR, SR, NER:

MOTION: I move we accept CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests as presented.
VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR:

MOTION: To accept the two new applications Black Hawk and Prohibition Springs as presented and deny the renewal of the remaining two CWMUs.
VOTE: Passed 5-4

SER:

MOTION: To not grant the variance that includes public land on the TL Bar Ranch
VOTE: Passed 5-3

MOTION: To have the Board ask the DWR to look as how the new corner crossing law opens lands that are within the CWMU program.
VOTE: Motions dies for lack of a second

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the division's proposal as presented.
VOTE: Passed 7-1

5) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement (**Action**)

NR:

MOTION: I move to accept Changes to R657-28- WMA Exemptions from License Requirements with the exemption for hunting or fishing license requirements for federal land management employees while conducting their official duties.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

CR, SER:

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR:

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the added exemption for Federal Land Management employees while conducting their official duties.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

NER:

MOTION: To accept as presented the amendments to the license requirements to access Wildlife/Waterfowl Management Areas (WMA) with the exemption to hunting and fishing licenses requirements for federal land management employees while conducting their official duties.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

6) Sage grouse translocation (**Action**)

All Regions:

MOTION: I move we approve Sage grouse translocation as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

7) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments (**Action**)

All Regions:

MOTION: I move we approve Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

RAC AGENDA

May 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. Regional Update **INFORMATIONAL**
- DWR Regional Supervisor
5. Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours **ACTION**
- Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator
6. Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41 **ACTION**
- Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief
7. Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72 **ACTION**
- Chad Bettridge, Division of Law Enforcement
8. CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests **ACTION**
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
9. Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement **ACTION**
- Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator
10. Sage grouse translocation **ACTION**
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
11. Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule **ACTION**
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
12. Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair **ACTION**
- Regional Supervisors

Central Region RAC Meeting
Summary of Motions
May 13, 2025
Springville, Utah

- 1) Approval of minutes from April 10, 2025 CR RAC meeting

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Eric Reid. Passes unanimously.

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

- 2) Approval of May 13, 2025 CR RAC Meeting.

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Eric Reid. Passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the agenda of the May 13, 2025 Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.

- 3) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours

The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard, seconded by Jim Shuler. Passes unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the amendment rule as presented.

- 4) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41

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

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

- 5) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72

The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Joshua Lenart. Passes unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented, with the amendment that we re-word R657-72-3 section (2)(d) (to identify which permit, federal or state, is required first).

- 6) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests

The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes five in favor and four opposed.

MOTION: To accept the two new applications Black Hawk and Prohibition Springs as presented, and deny the renewal of the remaining two CWMU's.

- 7) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler and seconded by Braden Sheppard. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

- 8) Sage grouse translocation

The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Scott Jensen. Passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve as presented.

- 9) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Kellen Hyer and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the presentation as presented.

Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance
May 13, 2025
Springville, Utah

RAC Members

Attending

Jim Shuler
Mike Christensen
Drew Eline
John Ziegler (online)
Braden Sheppard
Kellen Hyer
Eric Reid
Scott Jensen
Joshua Lenart

Absent

Brock McMillan
Josh Greenhalgh
Steve Lund
Bryce Castagnetto
Amos Murphy

Wildlife Board

Gary Nielson (online)
Paula Richmond (online)
Kent Johnson (online)

DWR Personnel

Riley Peck
Michael Packer
Ron Nielsen
Darren DeBloois
Heber Shepherd
Ashley Green
Covy Jones
McKay Braley
Chad Betteridge
Matt Briggs
Mark Farmer
Preston Wright
Bailee Prestwich

Jason Robinson
Brian Dennis
Ginger Stout
Chelsea Duke
Sydney Lamb
Chad Wilson
Lindy Varney (online)
Jessie Hamaker
Bryan Christensen
Heather Talley
Brian Maxfield
Dani Bordeaux

Total members of the public in attendance: 7

Central Region RAC Meeting

May 13, 2025

Springville, Utah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T61g0zsUld0>

06:00:34	RAC 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.
06:04:40	1) Update on the past board meeting (Informational) Mike Christensen provided a brief update on the past board meeting held on May 1, 2025 .
06:07:18	2) Approval of Agenda & Past Minutes (Action) The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Eric Reid and passes unanimously MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
06:07:45	3) DWR Regional Update (Informational) Jason Robinson updated the RAC on all regional activities. Wildlife Section <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completed 2025 sage grouse lek counts, numbers were slightly up.- Elk calf, moose calf and deer fawn season are happening.- 49 black rosy-finches and 135 gray-crowned rosy-finches at Alta. We had 33 recaptures as well. Aquatics Section <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spring Sampling:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strawberry Reservoir(spring nets for trout and walleye detection, still <i>no</i> walleye detected)- Utah Lake trammel nets for spawning June suckers.- Mill Creek invasive brook trout removal.- E-shocking of old Provo channel.- Spring Fishing<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Utah Lake channel catfish picking up, white bass active but adults still scattered.- Nine Mile Reservoir-lots of rainbows in the 2-5lb range.- Jordanelle, Deer Creek etc fishing well.- Outreach Partnerships<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Utah Lake Field Trips (DWR Outreach team, Utah Lake Authority).- Salem Pond Kids Fishing Day. Habitat Section <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completed mastication project of more than 1000 acres of juniper and oak brush on 12-Mile WMA.- Helped FFSL with a prescribed burn on the San Pitch Mountains for mule deer habitat.- Built a new guzzler in the west desert.- Planted 8,000 shrub seedlings at Santaquin WMA.

	<p>Outreach Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New outreach team: Michael Packer - Conservation Outreach Manager, Nicole Passeri - Wildlife Recreation Programs Specialist, Tristan Doyle - Volunteer Services Coordinator (DH Program) - Staying busy with DWR events, seminars/clinics and partner events. - Youth fishing programs are in full swing. Volunteer instructors still needed(approved dedicated hunter projects). - Successful Kids Fishing Day event at Salem Pond today, May 13th! <p>Law Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several officers in the regions participated in the Provo Airport Crash scenario training on Utah Lake. - Officer Braley was helping a family that had a squirrel in their home. The squirrel didnt appreciate Officer Braley's action and bit him. - Several officers attended Provo Police Department's Cops and Bobbers events at Vivian Park.
06:13:00	<p>4) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours</p> <p>Bryan Christensen presented to the board.</p>
06:13:25	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>RAC members asked for an explanation of the reasoning behind these rule amendments and how they benefit dedicated hunters.</p>
06:14:59	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
06:15:02	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None.
06:15:34	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC did not engage in discussion.</p>
06:15:49	<p>Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Braden Sheppard and seconded by Jim Shuler. Motion passes unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the amendments as presented.</p>

06:16:18	5) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41 Covy Jones presented to the board.
06:17:30	RAC Questions The RAC asked for feedback on what entities were involved in the creation of the MOU for Antelope Island and the reasoning behind moving it more towards the benefit of the public. The RAC asked for clarification on how the MOU is approved and what steps are taken after the meeting tonight. The RAC questioned what factors go into determining the number of permits for buck deer and pronghorn on Antelope Island. RAC member brought up concerns surrounding the low water levels in Salt Lake and how that may be effecting the
06:23:19	Public Questions - None.
06:23:24	Public Comments Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation. Public Comments - John Bair - Supports the recommendations as presented and thinks Antelope “Island” should be called the Antelope “Penninsula”.
06:24:48	RAC Discussion - The RAC discussed their support of the amendments and how they appreciate the public involvement on the proposal.
06:25:15	Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41 MOTION The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Kellen Hyer. This motion passes unanimously. MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
06:25:40	6) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72 Chad Bettridge presented to the board.
06:28:31	RAC Questions The RAC asked questions on the DLE’s response to the proposed edits to the rule from the UT Outfitters and Guides Association. The RAC asked if in the rule the terms outfitter, guide and spotter were defined. They also requested additional understanding on what potential verbiage changes may be proposed, specifically surrounding the definition of a “spotter.” The RAC asked questions surrounding the possible concerns

	about contractors working with multiple outfitters/guides. The RAC asked for clarification on the different guidelines around the take of a big game animal.
06:36:12	Public Questions - None.
06:36:15	Public Comments Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation. Public Comments - None.
06:37:11	RAC Discussion The RAC discussed the need to ensure all FS recommendations to the amendment are heard and spoken in the motion. The RAC also reminded those attending that this rule amendment came directly from the legislative office and not the Division.
06:39:13	Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72 MOTION The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Joshua Lenart. Passes unanimously. MOTION: To approve this proposal as presented with the amendment that we re-word R657-72-3 section (2)(d) (to identify which permit, federal or state, is needed first).
06:40:10	7) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests Chad Wilson presented to the board.
06:41:03	RAC Questions The RAC asked for some clarifications on the CWMU variance for parcels and corner crossings if the public land falls within a CWMU. The RAC was asking for a breakdown of the Prohibition Springs land trades and how these overall ratios are determined. The goal being a process that is the most in favor of the public. The RAC asked for a brief summary of why the DWR did not support the variance for Prohibition Springs. The RAC raised questions surrounding the required posting of all trade lands on CWMU properties. The RAC instructed Chad to bring up all maps of CWMU properties for public view. The RAC asked for a breakdown of the current COR's being considered for renewal and what kinds of restructuring is involved in those. The RAC asked what three allowances are being considered for properties that are inclusive of public lands. The RAC asked if we monitor collar data for these CWMU's to confirm if there are huntable species on these CWMU's.
06:57:51	Public Questions

	- None.
06:57:57	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garrett Slatcoff BHA - Our organization opposed the Black Hawk changes. However we do support the Prohibition Springs changes and ratios.
06:59:41	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed the variances for Prohibition Springs/TL-Bar ranch and how without the acreage from BLM land that they would not meet the bare minimum requirements to qualify in the CWMU program. The RAC discussed the concerns around the inaccessibility to public lands through CWMU properties. The difficulty of understanding how to interpret the “identifiable boundaries.” The RAC discussed the rules surrounding non-contiguous lands being counted towards total acreage for CWMU’s.</p>
07:16:18	<p>CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Eric Reid and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes five in favor and four opposed.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the two new applications for Black Hawk and Prohibition Springs as presented, but deny the renewal of the remaining two CWMU’s.</p>
07:18:11	<p>8) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement</p> <p>Chelsea Duke presented to the board.</p>
07:20:32	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked for clarification on the law's exemptions for individuals accessing WMA’s for the purpose of work related projects through federal lands. The RAC asked for the definition of a “highway” in conjunction with this. The RAC was interested in how the process for issuing “express permission” permits will go and how grandfathered management entities will gain them. The RAC asked for the official statement to be shared on the Division stance with the hikers/bikers that currently recreate on the properties without licenses. The RAC asked for an explanation on the division's inability to make this license requirement state wide, as well as the challenges around the possibility of creating a “recreation” license for those who do not participate in either hunting or fishing activities. The RAC asked if the non-resident licenses that are issued for either 3 or 7 days are consecutive days from the start date or if they could be dispersed throughout the year. The RAC asked if the Division had made any efforts to contact concerned individuals at an educational approach to gain a better understanding of their concerns surrounding the new license requirement. The RAC was interested in what activities would be considered as volunteer work versus</p>

	persons simply recreating on the property and claiming it was a volunteer activity to avoid a license fee.
07:37:55	Public Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dave Fox - Express appreciation for our cooperation. What is enforcement going to look like? What can I expect as a return on my investment into a license? I understand why you are not willing to do a different type of license however, what are the plans moving forward to differentiate this?
07:42:15	Public Comments <p>Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Challinberger - I know it is a new law, I work with three different youth bike groups. I am new to the legislature and I recognize there are a lot of moving parts to this change. We want to be a part of the solution to resolve issues amongst groups that may be recreating and not hunting/fishing on the properties by providing education. If we put Wildlife first, how do we ensure the wildlife is not being negatively affected by recreationists?. - Clay Christensen - I am a mountain biker and hunter. I appreciate what LE has said about the dedication to educating the public. I also liked what John Ziegler said about possibly providing a different license for people who are simply recreating on the lands and not necessarily hunting/fishing. Glad to hear the DWR will be tracking these activities.
07:49:26	RAC Discussion <p>The RAC discussed their overarching concerns around the entitlement of the public accessing these WMA's for purposes outside of their intended use. The comparison to persons purchasing a Sundance pass was brought up. The RAC brought up that it will be the responsibility of both the DWR, Board and Orem City to educate the public on what these lands are used for and what it takes to legally access them moving forward. The RAC made comments on the importance of properly managing and protecting these land put aside for the sole purpose of creating habitat for wildlife.</p>
08:00:15	Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Jim Shuler and seconded by Braden Sheppard. Passes unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the recommendation as presented.</p>
08:02:54	9) Action Item 10 : Sage grouse translocation <p>Heather Talley presented to the board.</p>

08:04:11	RAC Questions The RAC asked how the Division determines what areas they will translocate grouse to. The RAC asked if there has been any cases of AI passing to sage grouse. The RAC was curious when they would begin the translocations of sage grouse to these properties.
08:06:07	Public Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
08:06:18	Public Comments Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation. Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garrett Slatcoff BHA - We support this proposal.
08:07:01	RAC Discussion The RAC did not engage in discussion.
08:07:06	Sage grouse translocation <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION</p> The following motion was made by Drew Eline and seconded by Scott Jensen. Passes unanimously. MOTION: To approve the proposal as presented.
08:07:24	9) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments Heather Talley presented to the board.
08:08:18	RAC Questions The RAC asked for clarity on what types of pen reared game birds would be under this umbrella of amendments. The RAC asked for the reasoning behind the decision to remove the requirement that pen reared game birds be tested for Mycoplasma. The RAC asked for a summary of what it is like to raise pen-reared game birds.
08:12:11	Public Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
08:12:38	Public Comments Jason Robinson summarized public comments received from the online presentation. Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Bair (SFW) - We support this change as presented.

08:13:33	RAC Discussion The RAC did not engage in discussion.
08:13:39	Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments MOTION The following motion was made by Kellen Hyer and seconded by Drew Eline. Passes unanimously. MOTION: To approve the amendments as presented.
08:16:13	9) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair
08:18:40	RAC Discussion Votes in favor of Brock McMillan as Head chair - Passes unanimous. Votes in favor of Braden Sheppard as Head chair - Eric Reid (Braden declined). Votes in favor of Braden Sheppard as Vice chair - Passes unanimously. (Braden accepted)
	Notes: Joshua Lenart provided some feedback on his experience in the role as a RAC member. Mike Christensen provided some feedback on his experience in the role as a RAC member.
08:20:55	The meeting adjourned.

RAC AGENDA

May 14, 2025

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/m8hmBlCkY>

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair | ACTION |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments- Banking Hours
- Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. | Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments- R657-41
- Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 7. | Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments- R657-72
- Chad Betteridge, Division of Law Enforcement | ACTION |
| 8. | CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. | Changes to R657-28- WMA Exemptions from License Requirement
- Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. | Sage grouse translocation
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. | Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. | Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair
- Regional Supervisors | ACTION |

Regional Presentations- Informational Only

Sevier/Piute Big Game Winter Range WMA Habitat Plan-SR Only
-Gary Bezzant, Habitat Program Manager

CR RAC – May. 13th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N Main Street, Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/T61g0zsUld0>

NR RAC – May. 14th 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtube.com/live/m8hmBlCkY>

SR RAC – May 20th, 6:00 PM
DNR Richfield City Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield
<https://youtube.com/live/Pil2aplMY54>

SER RAC – May 21st, 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/cHH0ysQ4BZY>

NER RAC- May 22nd, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 N. Vernal Ave. Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/OBnnjahtK4w>

Board Meeting- June 12, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtube.com/live/GvQggWjiicw>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

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

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

MOTION: I move we approve the Agenda and Minutes.

2) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments- Banking Hours

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

MOTION: I move we approve Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments-Banking Hours as presented.

3) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments-R657-41 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move we approve Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments-R657-41 as presented.

4) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments-R657-72 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Avery Cook, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move to remove the requirement that a federal permit be included in the application for a state permit, and that a clause be added to clarify that the state permit does not grant permission to operate on federal lands. The applicant must independently acquire permission to operate from the relevant land and

management agency and have possession/copy of federal permits included in field requirements and eliminate Section E.

5) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests (**Action**)

The following motion was made by James Carlson, seconded by Nikki Wayment and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests as presented.

6) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move to accept Changes to R657-28- WMA Exemptions from License Requirements with the exemption for hunting or fishing license requirements for federal land management employees while conducting their official duties.

7) Sage grouse translocation (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move we approve Sage grouse translocation as presented.

8) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move we approve Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments as presented.

9) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair (**Action**)

RAC Chair- Brad Buchanan

RAC Vice Chair- Ryan Brown

DRAFT

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2025

Attendance

RAC Members

Brad Buchanan – Chair
Jim Christensen - Exec Sec
Ryan Brown- Vice Chair

James Carlson
Avery Cook
Robert Dale
Randy Hutchison
Darren Parry

Steve Sorensen
Jessica Wade
Nikki Wayment
Ross Worthington

Board Member

Gary Nielson
Paula Richmond
Kent Johnson

RAC Excused

Jaimi Butler
David Earl
Junior Goring
Casey Snider

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson
Bryan Christensen
Covy Jones
Chad Betteridge
Chad Wilson
Chelsea Duke
Heather Talley

Brooklyn Joseph
Darren Debloois
Xaela Walden
Daniel Sallee
Melissa Early
Brian Maxfield
David Smedley

Jolene Rose
Ginger Stout

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2025

Attendance

- 00:04:40** 1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.
- 00:08:40** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes** (Action)
The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.
- MOTION: I move we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**
- 00:09:40** 3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan**

Link on website to view.
- 00:13:11** 4) **Regional Update – Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager** (Informational)
Jim Christensen updated the RAC on regional activities.
- 00:24:39** **Questions from the RAC**
Harvest numbers from the additional antlerless elk permits issued. Additional Walk-in-Access properties.
- 00:26:15** 5) **Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments- Banking Hours** (Action)
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

Bryan Christensen summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:26:32 Questions from RAC Members/Public

None

Public Questions

None

00:26:52 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

00:27:35 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Asked Bryan Christensen to respond to the online public comments.

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

MOTION: I move we accept Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments- Banking Hours as presented.

00:34:36 6) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments- R657-41 (Action)

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

Covy Jones summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:35:18 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Addressing the concern over the bid hunter's season always opening sooner. Change in the number of permits being issued. Navigating season dates.

Public Questions

None.

00:39:05 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Angie Wonnacott- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the division's proposal.

00:39:58 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

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

MOTION: I move we accept Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments- R657-41 as presented.

00:41:16 7) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments- R657-72 (Action)

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

Chad Betteridge summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:43:55 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Taking out section E. Defining standard ethics of the profession. Guides being registered under one outfitter. Liability and workers comp. Not being convicted of moral turpitude. Official position of a spotter in code.

Public Questions

Affiliation of the guide to the outfitters process and what problem the division is trying to fix.

00:54:24 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Tim Pilling – Eliminating sections D and E. Workers comp is very complicated involving a 1099. Revisit interlinking the rules. Not conducive to the goals of the state of Utah.

01:01:05 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Appreciate you working with the Forest Service and federal agencies on getting the requirement applications removed so we're not asking for the same thing.

The following motion was made by Avery Cook, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move to remove the requirement that a federal permit be included in the application for a state permit, and that a clause be added to clarify that the state permit does not grant permission to operate on federal lands. The applicant must independently acquire permission to operate from the relevant land and management agency and have possession/copy of federal permits included in field requirements and eliminate section E.

01:12:35 8) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests

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

Chad Wilson summarized the presentation for the RAC.

01:13:00 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Recap on when public lands are included and other ways the public benefits. Posting Trade lands. Equitable type habitat. Location of the Trade lands. Posting of Ingham Peak.

Public Questions

None

01:23:49 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

01:24:45 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

There should never be public lands in CWMUs that aren't landlocked.
Appreciate the division explaining how this benefits the public. Correct signage.

The following motion was made by James Carlson, seconded by Nikki Wayment and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we accept CWMUs and Public Land Variances Requests as presented.

01:31:37 9) Changes to R657-28- WMA Exemptions from License Requirement (Action)

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

Chelsea Duke summarized the presentation for the RAC.

01:33:16 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Counties that are exempt. People not wanting to buy a hunting or fishing license. Educating the public about which areas require a hunting or fishing license. Type of law enforcement and when it goes into effect. Type of citations that will be given. Signage addressing the issues. Legislators reaching out to the DWR for feedback on the hunting or fishing license requirement. Eccles Wildlife Education Center and Hasenyager Reserve being exempt from the requirement. Federal land management agencies or employees having an exemption to access properties that apply to their job duties. Special use permits and exemptions. Hobble Creek Trail. Prescriptive easements.

Public Questions

None

01:56:39 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Angie Wonnacott- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the proposal.

01:58:22 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Cost of managing WMAs. Supports pay to play. Concerns about the Law Enforcement Division being able to enforce this. QR code to buy a fishing license in real time. Tracking how many nonconsumptive users use the WMAs. Educating the public. Forest Service would like an exemption. Doesn't affect BLM lands as much.

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

MOTION: I move we accept Changes to R657-28- WMA Exemptions from License Requirements with the exemption for hunting or fishing license requirements for federal land management employees while conducting their official duties.

02:11:59 10) Sage grouse translocation (Action)

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

Heather Talley summarized the presentation for the RAC.

02:12:05 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Estimate of the number of birds the division wants to move. Location where the birds are being taken from. Population of source sites. Target numbers. Location where the birds will be released. Moving greater sage grouse out of the leking season. Artificially establishing leks with playbacks or decoys. Genetic diversity. Marking the sage grouse. Transmitters on the grouse. Motus towers.

Public Questions

None

02:24:34 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Angie Wannocott- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the proposal.

02:25:18 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None.

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

MOTION: I move we accept Sage grouse translocation as presented.

02:26:12 11) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Bird Rule Amendments (Action)

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

Heather Talley summarized the presentation for the RAC.

02:27:04 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Elimination of the mycoplasma testing. Outbreak of mycoplasma in farms.
Transmission of mycoplasma between domestically raised birds.

Public Questions

None

02:29:16 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Angie Wannocott- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support the division proposal.

02:30:04 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

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

MOTION: I move we accept Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments as presented.

02:30:45 12) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair (Action)

Selection for Chair- Brad Buchanan

Selection for Vice Chair- Ryan Brown

02:34:41 Motion to Adjourn. Ross Worthington

Southern Regional RAC Meeting
May 20, 2025 6:00 PM
DNR Richfield City Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd, Richfield, UT

RAC Members

Attending

Austin Atkinson
Chuck Chamberlain
Riley Roberts
Bryant Johnson
Verland King
Russell Gardner
Bart Battista (Online)
Tammy Pearson (Online)
Rachel Bolus (Online)
Brooklyn Cox (Online)

Absent

Travis Duran
Chad Utley
Mike Grant

Wildlife Board

DWR Personnel

Kevin Bunnell
Adam Kavalunas
Terron Roberts
Gary Bezzant
Phil Tuttle
Chad Wilson
Denise Gilgen (Online)

Heather Talley
Mike Christensen
Vance Mumford
Morgan Hinton
Covy Jones (Online)
Chelsea Duke (Online)

Public invited to join online: <https://youtube.com/live/Pil2apIMY54>

06:00:00	<p>1) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson called the meeting to order. Called the roll of RAC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explained the RAC process and noted there will be no live presentations during the meeting• Encouraged those who want to express their opinions at tonight's meeting to submit a comment card.• Reminded everyone to be respectful of others, especially of those who have ideas and opinions that may differ from their own.• Recognized Wildlife Board members in attendance and online.• Welcomed public in attendance and those watching and listening online.
06:04:20	<p>2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson The following motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Tammy Pearson.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approved the Agenda and Minutes as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verland King: Do RAC Members need to have a hunting license.• Agriculture representatives are exempt.• Kevin Bunnell: Yes, per legislation.• There are some exemptions.
06:06:12	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed the motions from the Wildlife Board Meeting held on May 01, 2025, in Farmington, Utah.
06:10:10	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational) - Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p> <p>Wildlife Section: Positive reports from Spring Turkey hunts presently going on. Small transplant of some turkeys, moved from Texas and released on the Oak Creek unit. East side of Zion is a good place to watch sheep.</p>

Reports of Feral Pigs along the Santa Clara River in Washington County.
Removed 43 wild hogs from that area past 6 months, partnered with the Department of Agriculture.

Kyle Christensen received a mortality report of Bighorn Sheep on the Kaiparowits unit. Were able to rescue 3.

Depredation settlements for Big Game.

Trapping Beavers.

Sandhill Cranes banding.

Conducting Utah Prairie Dog annual counts.

Bald Eagles and eaglets are being watched closely in Iron County.

Partnered with Mule Deer Foundation to put in a guzzler and fence on Thousand Lakes unit.

Aquatics: Busy time of year with Spring netting. We've had good water years, but may be nearing the end of that.

Utah Chubs are low, so Wipers are doing their job.

New State record Wiper was caught at Otter Creek.

Kolob Reservoir: Trout size improved.

Panguitch Lake: High catch rates of all trout. New dam to be built in Fall of 2025. Working to improve water quality.

Washington County Field Office: Western Toad observed natural breeding on the Paunsaugunt since 2019.

Desert Tortoise alive observed, high number of recently deceased.

Gandy Warm Spring (West Desert) retenon treatment of armoured catfish

Lots of work with Riparian restoration.

Always working to remove Smallmouth Bass.

Habitat Section: Elbow Ranch: A pivot was put in 3 years ago. Second pivot was put in approximately two weeks ago. Increase of Deer and Elk. Will be soliciting bids for new permittee in February of 2026.

Outreach Section: Bighorn Sheep viewing event on May 3, 2025 on the Mineral Mountains was well attended.

Gunlock Catch and Cook was successful.

Utah Hunting Skills Challenge June 20 & 21 Lee Kay in Salt Lake.

Reminder for Dedicated Hunters check website and get hours in.

Law Enforcement: Officer Stetson West was recognized Officer of the Year 2024.

Officer Jeremy Butler was awarded "Damn Good Job" Award and Trainer of the Year.

Working Bear and Turkey baiting cases.

06:21:30	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <p>Russell Gardner: Can you tell me where the pigs were in Washington County? Sightings in the town of Pine Valley also.</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Santa Clara Drainage, Shivwits Indian Reservation Please let us know if you see wild pigs. We don't want them to become established here.</p> <p>Chuck Chamberlain: Removal of turkeys from Texas, Rios?</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Miriam's didn't go any farther north, defer to Heather Talley.</p> <p>Heather Talley: That is correct, we didn't take Miriam's.</p> <p>Verland King: You left out the good job you did burning on the Bicknell bottoms habitat.</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: We did do a burn in the Bicknell bottoms along with some other land owners, it was successful.</p>
06:24:10	<p>5) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours (Action) - Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator</p> <p>Presented DWR recommendations and answered questions.</p>
06:25:13	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Approved projects only? • Bryan Christensen: We keep that language in there because someone may call and say they cleaned up old lawn mowers from the neighbor's yard for example. That isn't an approved project. • Riley Roberts: How many individuals may this affect? Likes the idea of giving D.H. a little more time. Also, likes the idea of letting people bank hours. • Is that something that the public or RAC wanted to look at in the future, compensation or something for people who have worked and then didn't get drawn? Likes the idea of compensating for the hours spent and not drawing. • Bryan Christensen: I don't have that information yet. We can look that up. Good point, this has been a topic for several years. The last year and a half is when we could really put this plan in place. We now have the D.H. registration for projects is now online. The majority he has spoken with have generally asked for a little bit more time in their first year.

	<p>Last year dropped the hours from 8 to 6 hours. Positive feedback thus far.</p> <p>Some of the D.H. who wanted to bank hours are happy with the 6 hours.</p> <p>The ones that see they are likely to draw will most likely be the ones who want to bank hours.</p>
06:30:38	Public Questions: None.
06:30:40	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments: (Only four comments)</p> <p>Question #1: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the Dedicated Hunter Program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 3 (75%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 1 (25%) • Total votes: 4 • Weighted average: $[(1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (3 * 5)] / 4 = 4$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryan Christensen: It has been a concern that D.H. hours are given for banquets. We are supportive of this. We have these posted online to keep it fair to all. • Nick Dax: Utah Back Country Hunters and Angler's. Supports D.H. being able to bank hours to apply for the D.H. program within the same calendar year.
06:33:52	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy Pearson: Agriculture has dedicated for many years, and now we are in a landowner draw. I've got 14-15,000 acres we will get a couple of tags if we are lucky. • Russell Gardner: Seconds what Tammy said.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verland King: Thirds what Tammy said, she's right on the money. • Austin Atkinson: It's very hard to determine if you'll draw on D.H. based on odds.
06:35:50	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Bryant Johnson.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we passed the Division's recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
06:36:31	<p>6) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments (Action) Rule 657-41 - Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
06:37:20	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Could this mean on Antelope Island, could it go up to two Deer permits in the draw and still stay one conservation permit? • Covy Jones: Yes.
06:38:14	<p>Public Questions: None.</p>
06:38:19	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #2: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the conservation and sportsman permits rule?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 2 (40%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 3 (60%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 5 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (3 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 5 = 3.8$

06:38:54	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy Pearson: Are any of these funds from specific permits, are they spent on that unit or just to a general state fund. • There's a lot more public land in Southern Utah than anywhere else. Majority of Southern Utah is public land, not private. • Most of these have a permitted and are sponsoring project. Gary has done a great job. • Good projects. • Supports added tag going to sportsman. • Covy Jones: On Antelope Island it was written that all that money went back to Antelope Island. Now, the MOU allows us to expand and prioritize the island and those species and habitat. • The Southern Region gets the lion's share of this money almost every year. • If divided up equally, we'd have to take money back from Southern Utah. • Correct. Gary Bezzant and others down there have done a great job are so active. • A lot of sacrifice on the part of sportsman and public land permittees to make these projects happen. • Riley Roberts: Thank you for bringing those dates in line.
06:43:10	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Riley Roberts.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we passed the Division's recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
06:44:22	<p>7) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments (Action) R657-72 - Major Chad Bettridge, Division of Law Enforcement</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions. Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outfitters and guides was taken out from DOPL and placed within the Division of Wildlife. For the purposes of enforcement, DWR asked the Division of Law Enforcement to run the Bill through the RAC. • Initially, the renewal date was going to be December 31, but is now March 31 so we didn't have to renew through the hunts. This will be the yearly renewal date.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to adjust or strike Section 3.2 D (State and Federal law) to ensure that all state and federal regulations are followed, and to ensure a Forest Service or special use permit is in hand. • Section 2 E talks about workman's compensation, insurance, commercial liability, etc. Learned a lot of guides and spotters are 10-99 contracted employees. Our AG representative is okay if we strike this and/or read follow state and federal rules.
06:47:45	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: For clarification, the RAC's made motions to clear that up. Are you going to change your recommendation to the Wildlife Board or should we address that? Does your recommendation stand? • Chad Bettridge: In the Central Region, it was presented with the clarification points he mentioned. They voted to approve as presented, to adjust that line. • In the Northern Region, the Forest Service employee motioned that they accept his wording, which they did. There have been a couple of different motions on this agenda item. • Bryant Johnson: With regard to 10-99 employees, are you going to look into this? Outfitters have been audited and told they cannot have 10-99 employees, which make guides subcontractors and they would need to have their own liability insurance. This needs to be cleared up so all outfitters are doing the same. • Been an outfitter and a guide. • Employees do need to be protected. DWR has access to attorneys to make a determination. DWR is wanting two years of an outfitter's record. What is this for? Wildlife violations? Or to make sure outfitters are legitimate and doing things by the book? • Up against the wall with this issue this year. • There may be a committee that needs to be formed to address this. • A lot of us never knew this was coming, heard about it from the RAC. Some of this has been in the works for 2-3 years correct? • Who had input on this before it became law? Who was contacted? Some contractors were contacted, but not all. • Talked to Captain Holden Gaye and he has been working on this for a couple of years. • Small outfitters that need to be able to get an SRP. The already have to fight with land agencies who say we've got too many outfitters. • Every land agency has a different view on how this should line up and everything needs to be the same. • Outfitters have to pay them percentages of whatever they book. • Let's get a committee together to make these decisions, not just contacting well known outfitters and guides.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands this need to go forward this year. • Chad Bettridge: Not an insurance expert nor is our AG representative. We are putting in there to protect the employee one way or another. • Law Enforcement has talked about this previously. In the past, law enforcement has received all of the complaints regarding outfitters and guides. These were all turned over to DOPL. • Not sure who was contacted. It was put through the legislature. • Captain Gaye has been working on a draft for several years. • Hopefully, this rule will enhance this discussion. Gives a lot of power to outfitters and guides. Both ways. • Gives them the opportunity to say there are some bad things going on here and there is some teeth to enforcement. • Kevin Bunnell: This wasn't a Bill proposed by the Division, but when it was proposed, we worked closely with the legislator that presented it, given the time frame you have within the legislative session. • 10-99 employees needs to be clarified because different tax experts have different opinions and different advice. What level of employee are they? 10-99 or sub-contractors. • Secondly, the Bill needs to continue to be refined. • Verland King: Has this Bill passed the legislature? Why are we discussing it here? Just informational? • Chad Bettridge: We need to pass the rule: application process, renewal process; prohibited activities and field activating. The Bill itself gives the Wildlife Board the rule making authority over these types of things. • Austin Atkinson: You said applications must be renewed by March 31. Why the must? What happens if someone is late? Can they wait to see if they have a client, then sign up. • New and renew are the same price? • A contracted client, must they be with the guide? Or can they be with a spotter only? • Far to say there are no prohibited activities or a spotter? Can a spotter do everything a guide can? • No "may not" with regard to spotter? • Is an outfitter the only one who can take compensation from a client or can a guide take compensation from a client? • If a spotter wants to upgrade to be a guide, do they pay the difference or start over? • Must a contracted client be in the field with a guide only, or can they be with spotter only?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forest Service doesn't care if you're an outfitter or a guide as long as you're licensed, they issue you a permit. • Chad Bettridge: If you renew prior to March 31st, you click a box and everything auto fills. After March 31st, you'll have to go through the entire application process again. • Outfitters, guides and spotters pay one time, not each time they associated with a hunter. • The Bill itself describes what a guide and spotter are. • More responsibility on a guide than a spotter. • As the Bill is written now, a spotter would need to start the application process over. The same when a guide wants to become an outfitter. • Read definition of compensation as stated in the Bill, not in rule. • To be a guide, you must be associated with an outfitter, and a spotter under a guide. • As long as you were doing spotter related activities, sure. • In the Bill as spotter could take compensation. • Chuck Chamberlain: Spotters and guides must attain certificates of registration for each outfitter they intend to work for. • You said that was a one-time fee, but it sounds like they would have to pay for each outfitter they work for. • Chad Betteridge: You have to affiliate, but you only have to pay one fee. • Austin Atkinson: They can go online in the field, anywhere you have service and associate yourself with a QR code and associate yourself with that guide, reprint your COR or download it and it would show every outfitter your associate with? • An outfitter fills out his application, gets his license. Chances are those guides are paying money right out of the gate, they're going to wait until further in the season when the outfitters says he's busy. Can he associate with some who doesn't have a license yet? Or is it reversed, the guide associates himself with the outfitter? • Chad Bettridge: The outfitters lists who their guides will be. So, yes. • A guide must associate with an outfitter. • Bryant Johnson: Do we know what the application process looks like? Will there be testing that is different for outfitters, guides and spotters? • So anyone can become a guide, outfitter, if they pay the money? • Chad Bettridge: As written now, there is no test.
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- **Riley Roberts:** Wants to make sure the verbiage states it goes from the top down. That an outfitter can do everything a guide and spotter can do? Not from the bottom up.
- Doesn't want them to be hamstrung for doing something they aren't supposed to do.
- **Chad Bettridge:** Yes, it is written that way.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Can you do away with the spotter completely?
- **Chad Bettridge:** That would have to go through the legislature.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Has there been any discussion about what documentation and outfitter will have to provide you with? Is it produced only by request?
- **Chad Bettridge:** At the end of the year, during the renewal process, an outfitter lists all the guides and spotters that worked for them, their clients, etc. That's part of the renewal process.
- Guides and Spotters must have their COR's with them in the field that's associated with an outfitter.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Section 3, paragraph 3 (a) Spotters and guides must acquire a COR from each outfitter. Then another sections says a guide or spotter COR from the Division using an affiliated code. Sounds like you're saying the same thing twice. What is the difference?
- **Chad Bettridge:** We are saying the same thing twice.
- **Russell Gardner:** You've got outfitters, guides and spotters. If they violate the law, do they lose their privileges?
- **Chad Bettridge:** Wording in rule says "may". There's an investigative process and hearing, much like a license suspension hearing. If the outfitter is suspended, those that work for them is also suspended.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** If a person was working for one outfitter, but wasn't part of the reason that outfitter was suspended, he could then work with another outfitter.
- **Chad Bettridge:** Correct.
- An entire investigation and hearing would need to happen.

- **Russell Gardner:** Sometimes outfitters and guides will trespass or block roads to obtain a trophy animal. What kind of deterrent is there for this?
- **Chad Bettridge:** Their privileges as an outfitter and/or guide would be taken away.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Will they be held to the same standard as general public? Or a higher standard?
- It would make sense if they were held to a higher standard.
- Did we clear up the language? A hunter could book with more than one outfitter? There's a loophole.
- **Chad Bettridge:** It's the same law, rule or violation. If you trespass and I trespass, it's all the same law.
- Booking with more than one outfitter is illegal.
- A person with a permit can only use one outfitter, not two.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Is that true if the season dates are different. Coming down to a daily or an instance of time and that could change tomorrow.
- If there is a finite time and this week I'm with two people, that season ends, then I'm with a new outfitter? We have seasons that go six months in this state.
- **Chad Bettridge:** As long as there are only two people that are being compensated at one time, yes.
- As long as you used one outfitter and then stopped and then hired another outfitter.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Read that no more than two registered outfitters, guides and/or spotters may be assigned to a client at any given time. Seems you can have two outfitters assigned to a hunter. For OIAL, it says no more than three registered outfitters. Felt the intent was no more than two people.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** The way Chuck read it "at any given time" would seem that as long as there wasn't an overlap between being associated with one outfitter versus the other outfitter, then you could be associated with two different ones. As long as it's not both of them at the same time.
- **Chad Bettridge:** If an officer walks into camp and you've got outfitter A and outfitter B that are both compensated outfitters and then you're

	<p>also using a guide and a spotter under the outfitters, that's against the law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryant Johnson: What if it's a Governor's permit and they have an outfitter looking in this part of the state while they're in another part of the state and they get a call saying come to this area? • Kevin Bunnell: Will look into the Bill and find those specific references. • Riley Roberts: Knows there's no use crying over spilled milk, but how did this get pushed through? • Who brought this to the forefront? Did DOPL come to the Division? Did DOPL go the legislature? • Appreciates Major Bettridge for being here tonight. Understands it's not his Bill. Frustration is with this Bill being passed so quickly. Trying to understand how this was passed, we don't know how it got here to begin with. • As a RAC, we are trying to make a decision and pass on the rules, we don't even know how this passed? With Bryant, didn't know about this until a month ago. • It's house Bill 87 something? Started as a House Bill on its own, failed and didn't progress, so it was lumped in with Senate Bill 149? • Chad Bettridge: Lots of discussion with legislators at several different time. Legislators talking to legislators. • No, this came from the legislators. • The Division of Law Enforcement put posts on social media letting the public and outfitters know that things have changed. Doesn't necessarily reach everyone at the same time. • Bryant Johnson: When you started this meeting, didn't you say law enforcement brought this to the legislators to get this Bill passed through? • It was Representative Shipp wasn't it? • Kevin Bunnell: Representative Shipp from Cedar City initially brought it forward, there were other legislators who had input. The final Senate Bill that was passed was sponsored by Senator Winterton and Representative Albrecht. Ultimately ended up in Senate Bill 149. • Bryant Johnson: Feels like there are a lot of things coming at us without us knowing until they're on the table and no input was given. • Believes this came to the table because guides and outfitters were not getting along with each other to where Law Enforcement couldn't deal
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	<p>with it. This is probably how this came to the legislature, wishes there were more time to process this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are bad actors, public hunters that want to blame it on outfitters. • Understand Law Enforcement will be fair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell: Agreed. This is not the first time we've dealt with this. With Law Enforcement, in the past, it was primarily handled with education. Refining the process, it's going to have too. • Work in progress. Believes the legislature will be open to modifications. • Bryant, it says a person cannot simultaneously hire an Section 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Bettridge: We hope everyone understands that they will try to be as fair as possible. • This is a good foundation that we will build on. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tammy Pearson: Familiar with both Bills, neither one was going to pass. It was then lumped in with several other items and then it was passed. Confusing and now we are trying to clean it up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riley Roberts: Will the process that's in place be seamless combined with what they are used to with DOPL? • Is the team set up to run this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Bettridge: We hired a person to run this program a week ago. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell: Found the answer to Bryant's question. Section 6, says a person can only hire a guide or outfitter as long as they're not retaining another one simultaneously for the taking of the same sex, same species of protected wildlife. That's in the Bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Is it your duty to write in rule everything in that code? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad Bettridge: There are things we can talk about and things that already exist in the Bill. Some definitions, application and renewal process. The Bill gave the Board rule authority over to create. • Statement in the Bill that the Wildlife Board may adjust the fee, up or down through the process too.
07:25:25	<p>Public Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney Anderson: Are guides and outfitters on CWMU be required to be licensed and insured?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a site that a person can look to find and read this wording that has been presented tonight? Has found the Bill. • Would like to invite the CWMU guides, outfitters and guides to pay also to make this fair. • Kevin Bunnell: After everything is defined, it will be available on our website. • Chad Bettridge: This specific rule is very specific to public property. • Bryant Johnson: This rule only goes to the property owner, even though it a public commodity, that they're hunting on. • David Roscoe: Guides can solicit work and apply for SRP permits or is it just outfitters? Meaning booking a client? • Can he work with another outfitter with a shared client? • Chad Bettridge: A guide must work for an outfitter. The outfitter is the one who books the client, not the guide. • An outfitter can act as a guide. So one person would need to act as a guide. • A client cannot hire two outfitters for the same sex, same species at one given time. • Austin Atkinson: They can both be in the field at the same time, both being compensated, both acting as guides as long as they don't violate what Kevin read? • Chad Bettridge: If the client has hired both outfitters to hunt the same species, same sex, that can't happen. The outfitter can work as a guide. • Bryant Johnson: No two different contracts, one contract and the other outfitter would have to act as a guide. • Kevin Bunnell: Reviewed rule. We will continue to work through this process. • Austin Atkinson: The way it reads, you couldn't have two guides. One would have to act as a spotter. • The word contract doesn't exist in rule, based on compensation. • Chad Bettridge: Our goal is to work with all outfitters, guides and spotters to be fair.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outfitters needs to apply for a COR, then he'll give that to a guide to affiliate with them. • Shane Bradbury: Small outfitter in Wayne County. He and his father both hold outfitter licenses, one entity. • When you're in the field you must have your client's name and the list of QR items. What about last minute clients? Is there a place on the computer I can adjust information quickly? • Chad Bettridge: One of you will need to become a guide. When you apply for the COR, you're going to type in the name of the applicant and if the applicant is an entity. One of you will become the outfitter. • Yes, if you have already applied? If you and your guides are check in the field, if you have a COR, your guide has a COR and your spotter has a COR, you're good. • Goal is to be simple and online. • Kevin Bunnell: The application doesn't make you list a client, just the outfitter. • Taylor Albrecht: The law takes effect July 01, 2025. How long does the application process take, to be approved or denied? What is the process? • If you are denied, how long will it take to argue the decision? For example, the Bison hunts starts August 1st. What if you've already booked that and you're denied? • We are a small group here, but there are several others throughout the state. • There are a lot of questions that have been asked that haven't been answered. • Chad Bettridge: Just a few minutes to see if you meet the criteria. Potentially the same day or next day. Not an extended amount of time. • A denial of the application for a COR is a final agency action. However, there is an appeal process with the Division. • As long as there have been no violations in the past, the approval process should go through fairly quickly. • Kevin Bunnell: This has seemed chaotic and somewhat ugly. Appreciates the public coming to this meeting to discuss this issue. Better to address issues now than before a judge and an outfitter potentially losing his/her license. • Shane Bradbury: Applied to be an outfitter, it required a lot of hours, a test, and a whole checklist.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are their stricter guidelines for becoming an outfitter license rather than a guide or a spotter? Worried there will be some people applying to outfitter COR's that may get into trouble without a great understanding of the law and rules. • Do our existing outfitters license carry over? Grandfathered in? • Chad Bettridge: An applicant to operate as an outfitter must contain the name of the applicant, the entity, proof of registration with Utah business entities in the Department of Commerce, a brief description of one of the services being provided and you must have a hunting, fishing, or combination license relevant to the services being provided. That's the stipulation to being an outfitter. • An outfitter must sign for a guide or spotter and have them affiliate with you. • Austin Atkinson: Are you saying a guide cannot complete an application without the outfitter's secret number. • An outfitter can just be a person, not an entity. • Chad Bettridge: It's a COR number that the outfitter gives to the guide.
07:46:50	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #3: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed outfitters, guides and spotters rule?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 3 (50%) • Somewhat agree: 1 (17%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 2 (33%) • Total votes: 6 • Weighted average: $[(2 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (1 * 4) + (3 * 5)] / 6 = 3.5$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyler Miller, Utah Outfitter's Guide Association: A lot are surprised and/or overwhelmed by this. • Heard it didn't come from DWR or DOPL. We've heard it came in the back way from a legislator and introduced down. Feels like it skidded under the table. • Plenty of input from select outfitters into implementation of this rule. Over the last five years, there have been five initiatives to create a

	<p>professional association for guides and outfitters. We know the rules and monitor our own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are saying that two outfitters can work together, that already exists through the Forest Service. You just go to another outfitter and subcontract under their special use permit. • There was a meeting this week at Fish Lake with the U.S. Forest Service and DWR. Appreciates this. • Created a nonprofit association and it's a professional trade association (503 C6). Very excited and optimistic in working with DWR in creating a professional structure for outfitters and guides throughout the state. So that we set the standard and ethics. • A professional license is a significant thing, you don't have that anymore. You have a slip of paper. We mentioned barriers into getting into this field. There are actors in the game that want it simple. We don't need it simple, we need it professional. • There are problems with the language. It does say, for limited entry, you can use two outfitters, guides or spotters. If you're talking about a Sportsman permit, immediately those outfitters now have access to the entire state to find the biggest Buck or Bull out there and they'll slam him. • Do you understand the problem with that? The ethics? The fair chase? It's abandoned. • Needs to be removed. We used to have to provide DOPL with our Utah Business Entity number. • Biggest issue, you've got to get rid of a client being able to hire two outfitters and go work the entire state to find the biggest and baddest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Roscoe: Has gone through the process of both 10-99 and subcontracted labor. Now, all of his guides are subcontractors. • Doesn't know of another business that is dictated by an entity that says you have to have W2's, you have to have 1099's. • Would like something in writing that the business owner can have 1099 employees or subcontracted employees. Put something in writing that outfitters can chose the way they conduct business with their employees. • Austin Atkinson: Line E says workman's compensation and liability insurance, but under your special use permit you're going to have to have some level of liability insurance anyway. Should that even be covered in rule in your opinion? • Dave Roscoe: The insurance on SRP's is different, you're insuring the government, you're not insuring your business or your employees. Insurance he carries on the SRP's is for the Department of Interior, the Federal Government.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utah Law requires an outfitter to either liability insurance. Has to either carry workman's compensation for himself. But, if he's a self-proprietor, he can exempt himself. • He requires his guides to supply him with their liability insurance, workman's compensation policy or waiver. Won't let them go into the field without his own checklist of things. • Has had to learn things the hard way. This is the way he runs his business. • Chad Bettridge: As we stand now, E states you're going to attest that workman's compensation insurance and commercial liability to cover employees and clients has been obtained. • That might be what you want, as written. • Bryant Johnson: Believes that needs to come from a legal expert with them how that is. Maybe let a guy know that if he signs this and he doesn't have insurance that he could be liable for anything that happens to that client. Because your insurance isn't going to take care of him. • There's going to be a guide that wants to guide once a year and he's not going to look into all the legalities. He'll say hey, Dave is going to pay me this much, he's going to give me a 1099, but if I wreck with that guy all of the sudden my house is gone because I didn't get insurance, I just signed the paper Dave gave me. • Kevin Bunnell: Comfortable saying we are not going to dictate how an outfitter and guides run their businesses. • Chad Bettridge: The reason it came up, because a lot of public comment was regarding this. I think the statement that is there covers your concerns. • Austin Atkinson: It says that it already has to be obtained before you submit the application. • Chad Bettridge: We just want to make sure people are covered. • Rod Anderson: Comments and questions have been covered.
08:05:50	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryant Johnson: Believes we'll need to pass this as presented; however, recommend that a committee be formed to discuss this further and provide further clarification. • Believes this is unfair to the smaller outfitters, financially. Being passed on to the public.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A general contractor is only going to pay every three years through DOPL, outfitters will have to pay every year. • Outfitters are providing a service, not entertainment. Therefore, outfitters must pay sales tax to the State from the hunter. • This Bill has some good points, bad actors need to be held accountable if they can't get along with each other and the public. Believes outfitters need to be held to a higher standard. • He's a current outfitter, so he'll abstain from the vote. <p>• Chuck Chamberlain: Was asked by the Forest Service to propose the amendment to not require federal permits at the application process for the state. So, if someone gets to go first, otherwise, we would require it first, you would require it first and no one would get a permit. Avery Cook stated something similar to application material the state guiding license, but to require applicable permits to be obtained from the relevant land management agency and that guides carry a copy of the federal permit or the special use permit while operating in the field. That would allow them to get the state license permit before they get their special use permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riley Roberts: Believes this is his last RAC meeting. • Talked about the legislative process and why this meeting is so important. • Second time in two years something has been passed through legislation that didn't come through the RAC or Wildlife Board. • Passion for the outdoors, appreciates the opportunity to voice our concerns. The RAC allows us to go through the process and have a say. • Very frustrated with the legislators and hopes Mr. Shipp is listening to this meeting. Frustrated this was pushed through without going through the proper channels. Encourages everyone to write a letter. Without the RAC's and Wildlife Board, it is just special interest groups and those with deep pockets that get things passed through. • Opposed and disappointed how this played out. • Appreciates Law Enforcement being willing to work with us. • Feels the vetting process will need to be very stringent. • Outfitting community is small and there are those that might sneak through that shouldn't go through. You'll probably hear from other outfitters and guides if this happens. • Fees are disproportionate in comparison to DOPL. Equal isn't always fair. Post fees later rather than up front. The more you guide, the more you pay. The less you guide, the less you pay. • Needs to be a lot of verbiage tweaks. • Understands there is a timeline, but needs to come back through the process. Committee or something.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciates everyone for being here tonight. This is why we have RAC meetings. • There used to be a lot more people attending RAC meetings. Feels RAC's have been discredited a little bit because of what has been passed through the Wildlife Board the last few years. • Encouraged everyone to talk to their friends and neighbors to attend meetings and get involved. • Thanks the outfitters and guides for attending. • Verland King: Agrees with Riley – this is his last RAC meeting as well. • Also frustrated with the legislation that was passed. Should go from the bottom up. • Pay's \$15.00 per year for each of his two businesses. Feels fees are out of line. • If the legislature passes this, they should fund it, too. The smaller outfitters should have as much opportunity as the larger outfitters. • Bryant Johnson: Conservation and Special Interest groups are the biggest benefactors. The guides that bring the clients to buy the permits and get their 10% and the Division that approves their projects are the two biggest stake holders in this. We haven't heard a word from them. We received letters on every other item tonight. • Austin Atkinson: Overall, it's a disservice to guides and outfitters to rush something through. • Guides and outfitters and the most loyal and law-abiding hunters because their livelihood depends on it. • Changing it every year isn't fair. • Wants it to be affordable. This will drive up the price of guided hunts, we are already driving up the prices of licenses and permits. • Utah is still a free market guiding state, you can guide anywhere you can get an SRP. Guides in Alaska, complicated state, he must have seven pieces of paper on his person at all time to hunt in the field. Doesn't want Utah to become this way. • Believes this became an issue when someone got upset that there were multiple people behind a photo of a dead animal. They said that's too many people, let's cut the guides, etc. • At least change the Forest Service portion and strike Section E completely. • Doesn't want to see outfitters get into trouble this year at all. • Tammy Pearson: At the legislative session for seven weeks every year. You are spot on Austin. Someone saw a picture with too many people in it and someone got mad. I don't agree with it, it is one instance thing. Riley and Verland, you were all spot on.
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08:23:45	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Tammy Pearson.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s recommendations as presented and include the language provided by the Northern Region regarding the order of state and federal permits and strike Section 3.2 E.</p> <p>Passed 8-0 with Bryant Johnson abstaining.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell: Encouraged outfitters and guides to organize and speak with a united voice things will go a lot smoother. Hard when half say one thing and half say another, no win for anyone. If you can get organized so it’s similar to the CWMU’s and Landowner’s Association, the Sportsman groups that provide a venue for this group to speak with a cohesive and a united voice, it will be better for everybody. • Austin Atkinson: This is not over, right? The Wildlife Board meeting where this will be addressed is on June 12, 2025 in Farmington, Utah. Encouraged everyone to send email comments and/or appear in person.
08:36:52	<p>8) CWMUs With Public Land Variance Requests (Action) - Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division’s recommendations and answered questions.</p>
08:37:35	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: We’ve become accustomed to seeing the yellow sign “CWMU Stay Off” whether you think it public or private, realistically, what are the posting requirements for these Trade Lands? Is it going to be on the Hunt Planner, or is it going to be posted this is open for hunting? • They won’t take down their no trespassing signs, right? There will just be another sign next to it? • The Northern Region had some hesitation with Ingham Peak and one other. They did not approve the variance, correct? • Chad Wilson: It will be posted, the same as what the trespass requirements. There will be signs stating “Trade Lands, open to hunting”. It will also be on the Hunt Planner as well this fall. • Believes it says both, no trespassing and Trade Lands. It is not open for everything. It is open for hunting Big Game. The sign should be different enough that it sticks out. • They are both in the Northern Region, but the Central Region RAC did not approve the variance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They did not pass the TL Bar and the Ingham. The TL Bar is just under 5,000 acres and there is a piece in the middle of it that was inaccessible. We are still trying to work through the new corner crossing law. With Ingham Peak, they just did not like the terms of the trade. The Biologist for the Northern Region hunted the Trade Lands during the hunt and saw a lot of Big Game species. • Bryant Johnson: Which region are those two properties located in? • They're in the Northern Region and they passed it, but not the Central Region. • Chad Wilson: The Northern Region. • Correct.
08:41:05	Public Questions: None.
08:41:39	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #4: Which best describes your position regarding the CWMU recommendations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat disagree: 1 (100%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 2 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4$ • Nick Dax, representing Backcountry Hunters and Anglers: The variance requested for the Prohibition Springs is fair with what the public gets in exchange as long as the hunt quality remains good. Oppose variance requests for the Ingram Peak, TL Bar Ranch, and the Blackhawk CWMU because we don't feel the proposed exchanges are any benefit to the public hunter or the sportsman.
08:42:40	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Difficult to be familiar with areas in the North, but did look at maps. Looks like low country, Antelope habitat and maybe it is valid.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to go in on corner crossing a piece of land in Northern Utah. In favor of public land remaining accessible to the public wherever possible. • Hard when you are in the field to determine which App on your phone to trust, the Hunt Planner will not load, etc. • Hunters turn away when they see signs, even if it is public. Some of the CWMU signs are so faded. • Chad Wilson: To clarify. It is accessible to the public for anything except hunting for the species located inside the CWMU. • Sometimes we see a yellow sign and think we cannot cross there. There should be a different yellow sign, shouldn't have no trespassing on it if it is public land. If you can legally access the public land, you can still legally access it to do whatever you want besides hunting those species. You could hunt Coyotes, Upland Game, have a picnic, etc. • Riley Roberts: Looked at the maps to try to understand. Didn't see anything that was so landlocked that there couldn't be some kind of public access.
08:45:10	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
08:46:00	<p>9) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exceptions From License Requirement (Action)</p> <p>- Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
08:47:58	<p>RAC Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: How many DWR employees hold a license? They don't have to when operating under official duties, but would they have hold one for recreation? • Do you not offer an employee discount for fishing licenses? • Chelsea Duke: With the rule we are proposing, an employee would be exempt DWR employees from this license requirement when they are on a WMA performing their official duties. This was left out of the Bill.

- DWR employees are not required to have a license while performing their duties.
- No employee discounts.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** If they were on their own time, they would need to have a license to access the WMA. Only exempts them if they are acting as a Division employee.
- **Rachel Bolus:** If you are a researcher who wasn't a Division employee, financially contracted, or volunteer, but say worked for the university, Forest Service or BLM and you were collaborating, would you be part of that exemption as from this as well?
- **Chelsea Duke:** If a university employee or student is conducting research for their Master's or Ph.D. thesis, we often issue Special Use Permits for that individual or team to go onto a WMA to conduct that research. Often, the work they would be doing would be an unlawful use of Division land, so we want to make sure they are following the law in getting that permit.
- If there's a researcher who is accompanying a Division employee onto a WMA for capture purposes or research the Division is conducting, they would be included in this under the Volunteer or Invitee exception.
- **Tammy Pearson:** Are we talking about general access to a WMA or just someone who is working on it? There are WMA's in Beaver County that have pass through roads. Please clarify.
- **Chelsea Duke:** This law and rule only applies to WMA's in Salt Lake, Utah, Weber, Salt Lake and Davis Counties. No WMA's that would be impacted by this law.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Will there be signage indicating these changes?
- **Chelsea Duke:** Correct, we already have signage up on these properties. In addition, there's a QR code where you can scan and get more information about the law and buy a license.
- **Rachel Bolus:** Do you know why they chose hunting licenses instead of day use fees for bird watchers as an example?
- **Chelsea Duke:** Not only does the Division receive money from hunting and fishing licenses, but additionally, hunting and fishing licenses are used to give federal dollars to state. We receive Pittman-Robinson and Dingell-Johnson dollars through a complicated formula based on the number of license sales.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bart Battista: What are the purposes of WMA and Waterfowl Management areas? • Online and one specific purpose is to “enjoy wildlife based recreation”. That is not hunting or fishing, it’s to enjoy wildlife. • It seems Utah legislature disregards anything but hunting and fishing. As a Watchable Wildlife Representative, I have to have a hunting or combination license. Anyone in a Class I or Class II county must have a license, whether or not they find hunting morally reprehensible, to look at wildlife. • What value do you see in non-hunting or fishing wildlife based recreation? • Agricultural RAC members get an exemption, but watchable wildlife activities require a hunting license. Some of our most populated areas of Utah, for them to enjoy watchable type wildlife activities, they must get a hunting license. Doesn’t make sense, seems like a way to exclude them. • How do we extract usage fees from non-hunters, which we should. But, having them purchase a hunting license seems an insidious way to do it. Especially if they don’t want to hunt or have issue with it. There should be some other usage fee for non-hunters and fishermen/women • Doesn’t like the methodology the state is doing this and avoiding the entire RAC and the public input process. • Chelsea Duke: WMA’s are different from other public lands because they were purchased specifically for wildlife habitat, wildlife populations and/or hunting fishing recreation. We don’t receive general funds for purchases or management of WMA’s. • We value non-consumptive uses of WMA’s. Unable to speak for the Bill sponsor, but we are not trying to exclude non-consumptive use on WMA’s. You can still come onto WMA’s in these counties and bird watch or view wildlife and not participate in hunting and fishing activities. • Chuck Chamberlain: The Forest Service would like to be consistent and ask for an exemption from the hunting/fishing license requirement for Federal Land employees while performing their duties. • Austin Atkinson: Just to be clear, the only exemption right now is for state employees.
08:51:12	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #5: Which best describes your position regarding the new license requirements to enter WMAs?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat agree: 1 (50%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 2 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (1 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4.5$
08:58:51	Public Questions: None.
08:58:58	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Bryant Johnson.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the added exemption for Federal Land Management employees while conducting their official duties.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
09:00:31	<p>10) Sage Grouse Translocation (Action) - Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
09:00:55	<p>RAC Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck Chamberlain: What is the survival rate of Sage Grouse that are translocated? • Heather Talley: With the Strawberry SGMA translocations, we had 60% survival, which is great. Annual survival rates averages for yearlings and adult females can range between 38% to 85%. Adult male survival is a bit lower due to them being bigger birds and having more energy, expenditures in general to their physiology, as well as being on Leks, which make them an easy target. • Great success with translocations in the past. • Russell Gardner: Are you relocating them to areas where there are already Sage Grouse? • How are the Sage Grouse doing in Southern Utah, specifically Hamblin Valley, Southwest Desert?

- In a particular area, how do you determine
- **Heather Talley:** Yes, these are augmentations. They to help bolster a current population, helping to increase distribution, decrease in density dependence that could be happening in some more crowded areas.
- Some decline on the Bald Hills, 184 males counted.
- In Hamblin Valley, we only had 55, this area has had a lot of drought.
- Most populations are up. Panguitch had 413, which is a 5% increase this year, but a 13% last year. Parker Mountain is 1,533, a 23% increase this year and a 36% increase last year.
- We keep the total permits allocated for the fall hunt within 10% of the estimated fall population. To avoid additive mortality due to hunting. We have also structured our season dates that way for that reason.
- We push those season dates back further into September to allow for more brood breakup to occur. Which is why we only have the four areas open: Box Elder, Rich, Uintah and Parker.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Just to clarify, those numbers are from this spring.
- **Heather Talley:** Yes.
- **Bryant Johnson:** When you say Panguitch, where is that?
- Is that the South end of Beaver, partially?
- **Heather Talley:** Panguitch Sage Grouse Management Area.
- Yes, it is. (Presented map on screen).
- **Russell Gardner:** How do you determine how many permits to give out in a particular area? Seems that once an area is closed, it is hard to have it reopen.
- **Heather Talley:** A few years ago, we did close the Parker hunt. We had a lot of drought. Sage Grouse are already using Aspen Edge, rather than other habitat for their brooding areas. But, the next year we were able to open in up and now we have great record numbers at 1,500 birds. We err on the side of caution, we didn't drop below the threshold of 500, where we would normally want to close a hunt. Instead of a 10% harvest a 5% harvest threshold for the following year and we've been able to increase incrementally since then. We are trying to be responsible and trying to keep the opportunity for hunters as well.
- Hunttable species also garner a lot of funding from PR, so it's a win for them for it to stay open.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell: The minimum threshold is we need to count at least 500 males within a SGMA before we would consider having a hunt, but we are pretty conservative even in that. • Chuck Chamberlain: With Panguitch looking good, are we talking about hunting that? • Heather Talley: No, we aren't talking about opening any hunts at this time.
09:08:14	Public Questions: None.
09:08:27	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #6: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended sage-grouse translocations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 2 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Dax, representing Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Supports translocation plan for Sage Grouse to build populations of the Tidwell Slopes, Mytoge Mountains, Tabby Mountains and Brown's Peak. Organization continues to support efforts like this to help with the proliferation of the iconic Sage Grouse. • Hopes to personally draw a permit versus just accumulating points.
09:09:26	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verland King: Are any of these Sage Grouse pen-reared? Do you hatch them out? Trap them and move them? • Heather Talley: Trap and move. Low efficacy with pen-reared Sage Grouse. There may some new methodology that might come out to improve and change things. They learn so many things from laying the eggs, hearing the hens call, etc. Imperative to translocate when we can.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryant Johnson: Appreciates the DWR doing this work. Has fond memories of hunting the South end of the Beaver.
09:11:03	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bryant Johnson, seconded by Verland King.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
09:11:34	<p>11) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule (Action) - Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
09:11:50	RAC Questions: None.
09:11:51	Public Questions: None.
09:12:00	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell: Online Comments:</p> <p>Question #7: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to Administrative Rule R657-4?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 1 (50%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 2 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (1 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 4$
09:12:20	RAC Discussion: None.

09:12:25	<p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Riley Roberts, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
09:13:10	<p>12) Sevier/Piute Big Game Winter Range WMA's Habitat (Informational) Management Plan - Gary Bezzant, Habitat Program Manager</p> <p>Presented the Division's management plan and answered questions.</p>
09:14:15	RAC Questions: None.
09:14:20	Public Questions: None.
09:14:32	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell (Online Comments):</p> <p>Question #8: Which best describes your position regarding the proposed Sevier/Piute Big Game Winter Range WMAs Habitat Management Plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 2 (100%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 2 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (1 * 5)] / 2 = 5$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell: Gary presented both of these to the Sevier and Piute County Commissions and they were both happy to give their support to the plan.

09:15:25	<p>12) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair (Action) - Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor</p> <p>Special thank you to Riley Roberts, Tammy Pearson, and Verland King from Kevin and the RAC members. This will be their last RAC meeting. Kevin presented each of them with a wildlife print to thank them for their service.</p> <p>MOTIONS:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Bart Battista:</p> <p>MOTION: I move that Austin Atkinson remain as RAC Chairman.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Verland King, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that Bryant Johnson be elected as Vice-Chairman.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
09:20:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Encouraged the public to send in nominations to fill the vacant positions on the RAC. Positions are open for Agriculture, Elected Officials, and Sportsman. Nominations will be accepted through May 31, 2025. • The Board and RAC members will begin in August. • Kevin Bunnell: Has received some nominations, looking for additional nominations before the end of the month. • The Governor has selected the four, their names have been sent to the Senate, and they will hold their vote towards the middle of June. <p>Next Board Meeting: June 12, 2025, Farmington Bay, Utah.</p> <p>Next RAC Meeting: August 05, 2025 6:00 p.m. DNR Cedar City Complex</p>
09:23:03	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>

RAC AGENDA

May 21st, 2025

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/cHH0ysQ4BZY>

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair | ACTION |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours
– Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. | Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R67-41
- Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 7. | Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72
- Chad Bettridge, Division of Law Enforcement | ACTION |
| 8. | CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. | Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement
- Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. | Sage Grouse Translocation
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. | Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. | Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair
- Regional Supervisors | ACTION |

CR RAC – May 13th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/T61g0zsUIId0>

NR RAC – May 14th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtube.com/live/m8hmBICkbdY>

SR RAC – May 20th, 6:00 PM
DNR Richfield City Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield
<https://youtube.com/live/Pil2aplMY54>

SER RAC – May 21st, 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/cHH0ysQ4BZY>

NER RAC – May 22nd, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/OBnnjahtK4w>

Board Meeting – June 12th, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington
<https://youtube.com/live/GvQgWjiicw>

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 21st, 2025

Summary of Motions

Action Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Motion: To approve the agenda and minutes from last meeting.

Action Item 2: Dedicated hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours

- The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

Action Item 3: Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41

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

Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

Action Item 4: Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72

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

Motion: To have DWR add language that requires guides to obtain all applicable federal land use permits and have it on them in the field. Strike the DWR's proposed language that says they must have permits in order to apply.

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

Motion: To strike out section E in the rule.

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed 6-2.
Motion: To ask the Board to direct DWR to form a committee with interested parties, and the public that looks at how this rule will be implemented. (Reasons for no vote – Cash wants to see the rule play out for a year before a committee is formed. Dana – premature. We don't know if we need one.)

- The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 5-3.
Motion: To have DWR clarify in rule that once an animal is down, packing out the animal can include as many people as needed. (Reason for no votes – committee can figure out that issue.)

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

Action Item 5: CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests

- The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Dana Truman and passed 5-3.
Motion: To not grant the variance that includes public land on the TL Bar Ranch. (Reason for no votes – like corner crossing but unfair to single this CWMU out. Cash wanted to honor the advisory committee's recommendation.)
- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer and failed for lack of a second.
Motion: To have the Board ask DWR to look at how the new corner crossing law opens lands that are within the CWMU Program.
- The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 7-1.
Motion: To accept the remainder of the division's proposal as presented. (Reason for no vote – Charles voted no because we didn't review the same CWMUs the same way we scrutinized TL Bar Ranch.)

Action Item 6: Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement

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

Action Item 7: Sage Grouse Translocation

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

Action Item 8: Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments

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

Action Item 9: Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.
Motion: To accept Scoot Flannery as Chair and Cash Stallings as Co-Chair

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
May 21st, 2025
Attendance

RAC Members

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

Darren Olsen
Charles Fischer
Brad Richman

Kirk Player
Scoot Flannery
Steven Duke

Board Member

Kent Johnson

Randy Dearth

RAC Excused

Jack Cantsee Jr.
Justin Ivins
Tyler Gilson

Joe Sacco

Sunshine Brosi
Lynn Sitterud

Division Personnel

Chad Bettridge
Chad Wilson
JD Abbott
Ashley Kennedy

Heather Talley
Chris Wood
Brandon Behling

Bryan Christensen
Dustin Mitchell
Kyler Stilson

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
May 21st, 2025
Minutes

- 00:05:09** **1) Chairman Eric Luke** Called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and read a statement. All RAC members introduced themselves.
- 00:09:02** **2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** To approve the agenda and minutes.
- 00:09:34** **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update given by Erik Luke (Informational)**
- Link on website to view.
- 00:14:10** **4) Regional Update – (Informational)**
- Chris Wood Updated the RAC on all regional activities.
- 00:23:14** **5) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours (Action)**
- View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- Bryan Christensen summarized the presentation.
- 00:25:13** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- Date for this to go into effect. RAC members eligibility for dedicated hunter hours.
- 00:28:33** **Public Comment/Questions**
- None
- 00:28:39** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**
- Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.
- 00:29:08** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**
- None
- The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** Accept the division’s proposal as presented.
- 00:30:10** **6) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41 (Action)**

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

Dax Mangus summarized the presentation.

00:31:31 Questions from RAC Members/Public

None.

00:31:41 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

00:31:39 Public Comments/Questions

None

00:32:03 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

00:32:07 The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's proposal as presented.

00:32:58 7) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72 (Action)

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

Chad Bettridge summarized the presentation and clarified the updated renewal date of March 31st along with an update for the requirements regarding Forest Service approval. Phrasing in section E has been modified in each RAC.

00:35:44 Questions from RAC Members/Public

General summary of previous RAC decisions. Renewal date. Clarification regarding the number of guides and spotters. COR application and guide selection. Guide fees with multiple outfitters. Definition of guide, outfitter and spotter. Number of compensated individuals allowed in the field. Number of people allowed to pack out an animal. Reason for renewal deadline. Weighted motions. Possibility for later application.

00:49:08 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

00:49:05 Public Comments/Questions

None

00:49:18 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Like the idea of change from DOPL. Suggested later renewal date. Concern about big outfitters being able to push out smaller outfitters. Registration with joint ownership and fees. Ability to renew after the March deadline. Possibility for committee. Clarification on rule regarding the number of individuals allowed. Web page with FAQ. Increase in compensation and/or employees for management of the program. Federal permits.

01:12:26 The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To have the DWR add language that requires guides to obtain all applicable federal land use permits and have it on their person in the field. Strike the DWR's proposed language that says they must have permits to apply.

01:16:20 The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To strike section E from the rule.

01:18:21 The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed 6-2.

MOTION: To ask the Board to direct DWR to form a committee with interested parties, and the public regarding rules and how they will be implemented.

01:28:30 The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 5-3.

MOTION: To have DWR clarify in rule that once an animal is down, packing out the animal may include as many people as needed.

01:31:59 The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the remainder of the division's proposal as presented.

01:33:02 **8) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests (Action)**

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

Chad Wilson did not have any additional information for the presentation.

01:33:27 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Email regarding 3 of the variance requests that won't serve the public. TL Bar Ranch and corner crossings and concerns about the public benefit. Trade lands. Plans to change applications. Hunt boundaries. Total number of permits for TL Bar and assurance for public split. Past variance. CWMU rule committee decisions regarding trade lands.

01:48:36 **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

01:49:17 **Public Comments/Questions**

None

01:49:19 **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Nice to see Prohibition Springs opening to WIA for upland game. Important topics on the CWMU Rule committee and robust discussion regarding trade lands.

01:51:53 The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Dana Truman and passed 5-3.

MOTION: To not grant the variance that includes public land on the TL Bar Ranch.

01:59:31 The following motion was made by Charles Fischer and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: To have the Board ask DWR to look at how the new corner crossing law opens lands that are within the CWMU program.

02:07:47 The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 7-1.

MOTION: Accept the remainder of the division's proposal as presented.

02:13:10 **9) Changes to R657-28 – WMA Exemptions from License Requirement (Action)**

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

Chelsea Duke summarized the presentation and clarified HB309 and rule proposal. Applicable to class one and class two counties.

02:15:16 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Inclusion of waterfowl areas. Class one and Class two counties.

02:16:00 **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

02:16:18 **Public Comments/Questions**

None

02:16:24 **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Recent number of laws to be defined by the DWR. Payment to access public land. Plans for enforcement. Shed hunting.

02:20:05 The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Scoot Flannery and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's proposal as presented.

02:20:41 **10) Sage Grouse Translocation (Action)**

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

Heather Talley did not have any additional information on the presentation.

02:21:34 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Concern regarding animals on a watch list and how they affect the surrounding people, such as ranchers. Tag numbers. Leak sites.

02:28:09 **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

02:28:32 **Public Comments/Questions**

None.

02:28:38 **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Appreciation for the efforts to try to better establish the population.

02:29:20 The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's proposal as presented.

02:29:59 11) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments (Action)

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

Heather Talley summarized the presentation.

02:30:41 Questions from RAC Members/Public

None

02:30:54 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

02:31:07 Public Comments/Questions

None

02:31:16 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None.

02:31:18 The following motion was made by Darren Olsen, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's proposal as presented.

02:32:00 12) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair (Action)

02:34:24 Chris Wood mentioned the 6 outgoing RAC members and announced Scoot Flannery as Chair and Cash Stallings as the Co-Chair

02:39:02 The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept Scoot Flannery as Chair and Cash Stallings as Co-Chair

02:38:38 The following motion was made by Cash Stallings, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To adjourn.

Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

May 22nd, 2025

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

Wildlife Board

Randy Dearth

Gary Nielson (virtual)

DWR Staff Present

Anthony Christianson	Heather Talley	
Tonya Kieffer-Selby	Chad Wilson	
Dallon Christensen	Chelsea Duke (virtual)	
Dax Mangus	Brian Maxfield	
Bryan Christensen	Torrey Christopherson	
Major Chad Bettridge	Mike Christensen	
Gary Bezzant		

00:04:50	1) Welcome and introductions by RAC Chairman, Grizz Oleen.
00:07:40	2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grizz Oleen read the motions summary from the May 1st, 2025 Wildlife Board meeting.
00:12:40	3) Approval of Agenda and Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following motion was made Natasha Hadden , and Jordan sectioned passed unanimously: <p>MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.</p>
00:13:18	4) Regional Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented by Dallon Christensen, Wildlife Section Manager stepping in for Miles Hanberg
00:20:40	5) Proposed changes to the Dedicated Hunter Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented by Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator Brief summary given
00:22:05	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged to register for not just dedicated hunters, but other volunteers to track hours?

00:23:55	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public questions
00:24:05	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen provided a summary of responses received online. One comment. Strongly agreed, but left no feedback.
00:24:20	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments.
00:24:35	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the RAC thinks its great
00:24:53	<i>MOTION:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Eric Majors passed unanimously • MOTION: To accept the Dedicated Hunter Program rule amendment as presented by the division of wildlife
00:25:25	6) Proposed changes to the Conservation and Sportsman permits rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Dax Mangus, Wildlife Section Chief • Brief update
00:26:54	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RAC questions
00:27:00	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public questions
00:27:06	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen stated there were none.
00:27:14	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments

00:27:19	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RAC Discussion
00:27:28	<i>MOTION:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jordan McMahon passed unanimously • MOTION: To accept the conservation and sportsman permits rule amendment as presented by the division of wildlife
00:28:05	7) Proposed outfitters, guides and spotters rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Major Chad Bettridge, Wildlife Section Division of Law Enforcement • Brief update given
00:30:44	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief discussion on guiders/outfitters having 20 days to report any prohibited activities or violations.
00:32:20	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about outfitters using their “user days” just to pack campers in and out of camping areas, and who would oversee those types of outfitters. • Will extra staff hired by outfitters to cook, help with horses other such needs have to become a licensed guider/spotter? • Will they have to show proof of insurance to the division?
00:36:55	<i>Online comment summary:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen provided a summary of responses received online.
00:37:15	<i>Public comment:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns towards the amount of staff allowed with the outfitter when packing in families and other large groups and when packing out a harvested animal. The question was posed “how much do you feel the conservation permits would do without outfitters available?” Another question was brought up about guide license fees.

00:44:15	<p><i>RAC discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One guide or spotter of a law or rule? A mention of the possible intention of the legislation with this amendment. • A brief discussion was had about wranglers and cooks, with those working titles, having to purchase a spotter/guider license. • A mention of what other RAC's discussed about the proposed outfitters, guides and spotter rule • Mention of access permits through the tribe to gain access across tribal ground, and how to obtain one.
00:53:00	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden seconded by Ritchie Anderson, passes unanimously • MOTION: To approve as presented the outfitters, guides and spotters rule amendments, but to not require federal permits in the application material for the state guiding license, but to require applicable permits from the relevant land management agencies and that the guides carry a copy of the federal permit while operating in the field. And then removal of the 3.2e portion.
00:55:05	<p>8) Recommendations for CWMUs with public lands variance request in 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Chad Wilson, Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator
00:55:25	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns on renewals in other RACs and "corner crossing". • What did Prohibition Springs (pronghorn only CWMU) put up to allow public land in there? • Open up their private land (trade lands) for all big game?
00:58:45	<p><i>Questions from the public</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the public
00:58:55	<p><i>Online comment summary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen provided a summary of comments received online. One online comment, public hunters wouldn't benefit from this amendment

00:59:15	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments
00:59:20	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mention of what species CWMU block off and what are still allowed to be hunted. • A brief description of what “corner crossing” means for the CWMU. • A mention of the TL Bar ranch lack of trade lands and permit allocations.
01:04:25	<i>Motion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A motion was made by Eric Majors seconded by Natasha Hadden, passed unanimously • MOTION: to accept the CWMUs (Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit) public lands renewals as presented in 2025 as presented
01:05:10	9) New license requirements to access Wildlife/Waterfowl Management Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Chelsea Duke, Wildlife Lands Coordinator • Chelsea gave a quick update about HB309
01:07:20	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have the authority to add an exemption? • One motion that came was, Federal Land Management Employees, while conducting their official duties, will be exempt?
01:08:15	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public questions
01:08:22	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen stated there were none.
01:08:32	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comment

01:08:40	<p><i>RAC discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was mentioned that in the central region mountain bikers have trails going through the WMA. • What a WMA is actually for, and how the Everybody that enjoys these WMA's can now help participate in the maintenance. That the federal dollars received from these license purchases can help with WMAs. • A brief explanation on why non-consumptive permits aren't available. • Who has the potential for exemptions and special use permits was discussed • It was mentioned that this could limit "bird watchers" as some may have to pay out non-resident fees
01:15:14	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden seconded by Rebekah Jones passed unanimously • MOTION: To accept as presented the amendments to the license requirements to access Wildlife/Waterfowl Management Areas (WMA) with the exemption to hunting and fishing licenses requirements for federal land management employees while conducting their official duties
01:16:35	<p>10) Recommendations for sage-grouse translocations in 2025-29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
01:17:12	<p><i>Questions from the RAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was asked about the proposed areas they will be translocated to, PHMA (Priority Habitat Management Area) to PHMA or GHMA to PHMAs (General Habitat Management Area). • Also, If these translocations are successful, is there a possibility of more of them in the future and what is the time frame to be able to make the decision for more translocations? • A question about this being for genetic diversity was addressed?

01:22:13	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Questions
01:22:20	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen stated there were none.
01:22:25	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments
02:22:30	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comment supporting the translocations was made.
01:23:15	<i>Motion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Natasha hadden seconded by Jordan McMahon passes unanimously • MOTION: To accept as presented the division's recommendations for sage-grouse translocations in 2025-29
01:23:35	11) Recommended amendments to the pen-reared gamebirds possession and release rule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
01:24:00	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the RAC
01:24:07	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the public
01:24:15	<i>Online Comment Summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallon Christensen stated there were none.
01:24:22	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments
01:24:25	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseases and testing for/ from pen-reared birds was discussed

01:26:05	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Jake Huber seconded by Rebekah Jones passed unanimously. • MOTION: To approve the divisions recommended amendments to the pen-reared gamebirds possession and release rule as presented
01:26:40	<p>12) Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Dallon Christensen, • It was suggested that voting for the RAC Chair and Vice Chair be postponed until the August RAC meeting as many members of the RAC were absent tonight. • A supported suggestion of nominating candidates for the position was given. • Grizz Oleen offered to be Vice Chair for the board meeting in June. • A discussion about which RAC members were leaving this year.
01:30:25	A motion to Adjourn made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jake Huber, passed unanimously
01:30:43	Adjourn

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

between

THE UTAH DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

And

THE UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

This Cooperative Agreement, hereafter referred to as **“Agreement”**, is entered into by and between THE UTAH DIVISION OF STATE PARKS, hereafter referred to as **"STATE PARKS"**, and THE UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES, hereafter referred to as **"WILDLIFE RESOURCES"**. State Parks and Wildlife Resources may be referred to individually as a **“Party”** and collectively as the **"Parties."** THE UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD, hereafter referred to as the **“WILDLIFE BOARD”**, is an authorizing signature on the agreement, which approves the season dates and number of permits for buck mule deer and ram bighorn sheep, and is not party to the agreement.

RECITAL

WHEREAS, big game hunting on Antelope Island State Park (“Antelope Island”) historically occurred only for bison by special permit, in accordance with Utah Admin. Code Sections R651-614-4(2) and R651-637 and R657-5-38;

WHEREAS, during the 2010 General Session, the Utah Legislature incorporated intent language in H.B. 3 directing State Parks and Wildlife Resources to begin efforts for both mule deer and bighorn sheep hunts on Antelope Island beginning in 2011;

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature instructed the parties to: a) coordinate the hunts for mule deer and bighorn sheep on Antelope Island through a cooperative agreement; b) issue permits for each species through Wildlife Resources’ public permit drawing; c) issue permits for each species to the highest bidder utilizing Wildlife Resources’ current process; and d) use a portion of sale proceeds from marketed permits to benefit wildlife on Antelope Island;

WHEREAS; Utah law gives State Parks authority to open or close access on Antelope Island for purposes of hunting;

WHEREAS; Bison hunting has successfully been implemented on Antelope Island State Park for decades;

WHEREAS; Chukar hunting has not previously been allowed on Antelope Island and constituents have an interest in considering a chukar hunt on Antelope Island;

WHEREAS; Predator control may benefit big game species under certain conditions and be implemented if mutually agreed upon;

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 79-4-203(2) provides “[t]he Division of Wildlife Resources shall retain the power and jurisdiction conferred upon the Division of Wildlife Resources by law within state parks and on property controlled by the Division of State Parks with reference to fish and game;”

WHEREAS; Utah law gives the Wildlife Board authority to determine permit numbers, season dates, and other rules and regulations for purposes of hunting protected wildlife;

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Board has authorized mule deer and bighorn sheep hunting on Antelope Island in accordance with Utah Admin. Code Rules R651-637, R657-5, R657-62, and R657-41-12, and the parties intend for this cooperative agreement, along with the relevant statutes, administrative rules, and hunting guidebooks, to govern these hunts in future years.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Mule deer and bighorn sheep hunts shall be governed by and conducted consistent with Utah Admin. Code Rules R651-637, R657-5, R657-62, and R657-12.
2. Wildlife Resources will distribute to the public, upon approval by the Wildlife Board, buck mule deer permits and ram bighorn permits each year for Antelope Island through its annual Bucks, Bulls, and Once-in-a-Lifetime drawing consistent with Utah Admin. Code Rule R657-62 and Section R657-41-12.
3. Wildlife Resources will distribute to a qualified conservation organization, upon approval of the Wildlife Board, a buck mule deer permit and a ram bighorn sheep permit each year for Antelope Island to market in accordance with Utah Admin. Code Section R657-41-12.
4. Wildlife Resources will distribute buck mule deer permits annually as follows:
 - A. 1 Special Antelope Island Conservation Permit;
 - B. A minimum of 1 public draw permit, with a maximum of 2 total public draw permits; and
 - C. A minimum of 2 public draw management buck permits (as defined in R657-5), with a maximum of 5 total public draw management buck permits.
5. Wildlife Resources will distribute ram bighorn sheep permits annually as follows:
 - A. 1 Special Antelope Island Conservation Permit;
 - B. A minimum of 1 public draw permit; and
 - C. Additional public draw permits may be issued in accordance with the Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan.

6. Buck mule deer or ram bighorn sheep permits above the numbers specifically listed in subsections 4 and 5, need to be approved by the Wildlife Board prior to issuance of those permits.
7. Season dates for buck mule deer and ram bighorn sheep hunts on Antelope Island are as follows:
 - A. Marketed buck mule deer permit: Season begins the 2nd Monday of November each year and runs for 8 consecutive days.
 - B. Public buck mule deer permits: Season begins the Wednesday immediately following the 2nd Monday of November each year and runs for 8 consecutive days.
 - C. Management buck deer permits: Season begins the third Monday in November and runs for 5 consecutive days.
 - D. Marketed ram bighorn sheep permit: Season begins the 2nd Monday of November each year and runs for 8 consecutive days.
 - E. Public ram bighorn sheep permits: Season begins the Wednesday immediately following the 2nd Monday of November each year and runs for 8 consecutive days.
 - F. Public and marketed hunt start date rotation: In the event that only two bighorn sheep permits are offered, the hunt start dates will alternate between the marketed permit holder and public draw permit holder. During odd years, the schedule listed in 7(D) and 7(E) will be followed. During even years, the marketed and public permit start dates will swap, with the public permit starting first.
8. The conservation organization that sells the marketed permits may retain 10% of the sale proceeds for administrative expenses.
9. Beginning in 2025, Wildlife Resources will transfer 60% of the total sale proceeds from the marketed permits to State Parks and will retain 30% of the total sale proceeds from the marketed permits.
10. Wildlife Resources and State Parks will use the sale proceeds from the marketed permits as follows, in order of priority:
 - A. Benefit conservation permit species and their habitats on Antelope Island, including habitat improvements and water projects, surveys, translocation efforts, research, predator control, etc.
 - B. Benefit conservation permit species on wildlife management units or other state parks that allow big game hunting;
 - C. Purchase land that benefits conservation permit species and allow big game hunting; and
 - D. Other agreed upon uses of funds that benefit conservation permit species and their habitats.
11. Wildlife Resources and State Parks will provide an annual report on the expenditure of marketed permit funds.
12. Wildlife Resources and State Parks will conduct annual surveys for mule deer and bighorn sheep on Antelope Island to collect necessary data for population trends and permit recommendations.

13. Wildlife Resources and State Parks will meet in January each year to discuss wildlife management needs on Antelope Island and determine whether the buck mule deer or bighorn sheep permit numbers and season dates set forth in this Agreement require modification. The Parties will discuss big game population estimates, population objectives, habitat conditions, hunting success, hunting permit numbers, predator control needs, public safety, wildlife projects to be funded by marketed permit revenue, and any other matters pertaining to maintaining healthy big game herds and habitat conditions on Antelope Island.

- A. The Parties may evaluate and recommend to the Wildlife Board additional buck mule deer, and ram bighorn permits, or antlerless deer hunts if necessary to control excessive mule deer populations on Antelope Island and to prevent resulting habitat damage.
- B. The Parties may evaluate the need for predator control and if necessary, will jointly determine how it will be implemented.
- C. The Parties may jointly consider, develop, and implement research projects that improve the understanding of big game species population dynamics on Antelope Island. This may include neonate studies, migration studies and predator control.

14. Chukar hunting may be considered on Antelope Island. If allowed, State Parks and Wildlife Resources will work together to define season dates, bag limits, permitting systems, and number of hunters allowed and make those recommendations to the Wildlife Board for approval.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Good Faith

The Parties to this Agreement are governmental entities working together for mutual benefit. Good faith efforts should be made to resolve any differences before making any allegations that either Party is in breach or has failed to comply with the terms of this Agreement.

B. Utah Governmental Immunity Act

Both parties are subject to the provisions of the Utah Governmental Immunity Act (Utah Code Ann. § 63G-7-101, et. seq., as amended). Consistent with and subject to the terms of that Act, it is mutually agreed that each party is responsible and liable for its own wrongful or negligent acts and omissions, or which are committed by its agents, officials, or employees; provided that any damages awarded and payable under this provision are limited to the amounts set forth in the Utah Governmental Immunity Act in effect at the time judgment is entered. It is also agreed that under this paragraph neither party waives any procedural or substantive defense or benefit provided or to be provided by the Governmental Immunity Act or comparable legislative enactment.

C. Severability

The Parties agree that should any clause or provision in this Agreement be declared void, invalid, or ineffective for any reason whatsoever, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected and shall continue to be binding.

D. Binding on Successors and Assigns

This Agreement shall be binding on and shall insure to the benefit of all successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

E. Waiver

The waiver of any breach of this Agreement by either party shall not constitute a continuing waiver or waiver of any subsequent breach either of the same or of any other provision of this Agreement.

F. Notice and Principal Contacts

All written communications between the parties with regard to this Agreement shall be delivered or sent to the Parties' Principal Contact at the address set forth below:

State Parks:

State Parks Division Director
Utah Division of State Parks
1594 West North Temple, Suite 116
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
scottstrong@utah.gov

Wildlife Resources:

Wildlife Section Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
cdjones@utah.gov

G. Term and Termination

This Agreement shall become effective on the date of execution by the Parties and upon approval of their respective policy boards, and continue for a term of (10) years. Either party may terminate this Agreement with or without cause by providing notice to the other no later than November 30th annually. Termination of this Agreement will not invalidate the hunting opportunity authorized by a permit approved in the same year prior to termination. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Wildlife Resources may close a mule deer or bighorn sheep hunt on Antelope Island at any time in the interest of the wildlife resource.

H. Amendment

This Agreement may be amended from time to time as need may arise, provided all such amendments are in writing and agreed to by both Parties and approved by their respective policy boards.

I. Entire Agreement

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties and cannot be altered or modified except through a written amendment signed by both Parties.

J. Counterparts and Electronic Signatures

This Agreement may be signed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement and any amendment thereto as the Parties may in the future agree to may be executed and communicated by electronic transmission which shall have the force and effect of binding and obligating the party thereto, without the need to further transmit the original signature.

EXECUTION SIGNATURES BY THE PARTIES:

In witness whereof, Parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last date written below.

UTAH DIVISION OF STATE PARKS DIRECTOR

BY: 
Scott Strong (Feb 5, 2025 14:10 MST)

DATE: 02/05/2025

UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIRECTOR

BY: 
Riley Peck (Feb 6, 2025 09:53 MST)

DATE: 02/06/2025

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD CHAIR

BY: _____

DATE: _____



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Law Enforcement

TODD ROYCE
Chief

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 4, 2025

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Chad Bettridge, Major DNR Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: **Amendment of Rule 657-72, the Outfitter, Guide, and Spotter Rule**

Esteemed members of Utah Wildlife Board, after presenting Rule 657-72 to the RAC members throughout the state there have been two amendments to the rule for your consideration:

- Rewords section 3 Application Requirements and Approval (d)
 - Initial wording—all necessary federal permits to operate on federal land;
 - Amended wording—attestation that federal permits relevant to outfitters and guides will be obtained;
- Strike section 3 Application Requirements and Approval (e)
 - Strike wording—attestation that workers compensation insurance and commercial liability insurance to cover employees and clients has been obtained;

R657-72. Licensing and Operation of Outfitters, Guides, and Spotters.

R657-72-1. Purpose and Authority.

Under Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Act, this rule governs guiding, outfitting, and spotting protected wildlife on public land in Utah.

R657-72-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used for the purpose of this rule are defined in Sections 23A-1-101 and 23A-4-1202.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) “Applicant” means an individual or entity applying to the division to operate as a guide, outfitter, or spotter, and, if applicable, has the legal authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the business.
 - (b) “Affiliate code” means a numerical code or QR code provided to outfitters that are unique to that outfitter’s certificate of registration and will be used to assign guides and spotters to a particular outfitter.
 - (c) “Client” means an individual:
 - (i) possessing a valid hunting, fishing, or combination license
 - (ii) possessing the necessary permits as required by Utah law or rule; and
 - (iii) who has retained the services of an outfitter, guide, and/or spotter.
 - (d) “Guide year” means the period of time from April 1 of a calendar year through March 31 of the subsequent calendar year.
 - (e) “Spotting” means locating or monitoring the location of protected wildlife on public land.

R657-72-3. Application Requirements and Approval.

- (1) An applicant must obtain a certificate of registration from the division to provide guiding, outfitting, or spotting services and to be compensated as a guide, outfitter, or spotter.
- (2) An application to operate as an outfitter must contain:
 - (a) the name of the applicant, and if the applicant is an entity, proof of registration with Utah Business Entities, Department of Commerce;
 - (b) a brief description of the services that will be provided;
 - (c) proof of possession of a hunting, fishing, or combination license relevant to services being provided;
 - (d) ~~all necessary federal permits to operate on federal land; attestation that federal permits relevant to outfitters and guides will be obtained~~
 - (e) ~~attestation that workers compensation insurance and commercial liability insurance to cover employees and clients has been obtained; and~~
 - (f) payment of the fee described in Section 23A-4-1202.
- (3)
 - (a) Guides and spotters must obtain a certificate of registration for each outfitter they intend to work for.
 - (b) An affiliate code to provide guide or spotter services with a particular outfitter can be obtained from the outfitter.

- (c) To operate as a guide or spotter, the applicant must acquire a guide or spotter certificate of registration from the division using the affiliate code obtained from each outfitter the guide or spotter intends to work for.
- (d) An applicant for guide must pay the annual fee described in 23A-4-1202(4) one time for each guide year, regardless of the number of outfitters the guide intends to work for.
- (e) An applicant for spotter must pay the annual fee described in 23A-4-1202(6) one time for each guide year, regardless of the number of outfitters or guides the spotter intends to work for.
- (4) In reviewing an application, the division shall consider:
 - (a) the completeness and accuracy of the application;
 - (b) any conviction of, a plea of no contest to, or a plea held in abeyance of Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Act;
 - (c) any license suspension action that has been reciprocated pursuant to the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact; and
 - (c) any conviction of, a plea of no contest to, or a plea held in abeyance to a crime of moral turpitude by the applicant or an applicant's employees, that when considered with the functions and responsibilities of a guide, outfitter, or spotter bears a reasonable relationship to the applicant's ability to responsibly operate as a guide, outfitter, or spotter.
- (6) A denial of an application for a certificate of registration is a final agency action and the applicant may appeal the denial by filing a Request for Agency Action with the division under Rule R657-2.
- (7)(a) Certificates of registration approved by the division will expire at the end of the guide year, on March 31, annually.

R657-72-4. Application Renewal.

- (1) Certificates of registration to operate as a guide, outfitter, or spotter must be renewed annually.
- (2) If an applicant has obtained a certificate of registration to operate as an outfitter, guide, or spotter during a guide year, they must submit an application for renewal in order to obtain a certificate of registration for the following guide year.
- (3) An application for renewal must contain:
 - (a)(i) verification of no change in the original application; or
 - (ii) any necessary amendments to the documents submitted in the original application; and
 - (b) an accounting of:
 - (i) clients hired and employees compensated by that client in order to ensure compliance with Subsection 23A-4-1204(2)(d); and
 - (ii) if an outfitter, a list of the guides and spotters retained; or,
 - (iii) if a guide, a list of the spotters retained.
- (4) payment of the fee described in Section 23A-4-1202.
- (5) Failure to provide all documentation and payment under this subsection shall result in the application being denied as incomplete.

R657-72-5. Field Requirements

(1) Pursuant to Section 23A-4-1204:

- (a) no more than two registered outfitters, guides, and/or spotters may be assigned to a client at any given time while hunting protected wildlife; and
 - (b) no more than three registered outfitters, guides, and/or spotters may be assigned to a client at any given time while hunting moose, bison, bighorn sheep, or mountain goat.
- (2) Outfitters, guides, and spotters must be able to produce, in the field, documentation of:
- (a) the client; and
 - (b) the dates providing services to that client.
- (3) Outfitters, guides, and spotters shall retain the records in Subsection (2) for at least two years.

R657-72-6. Prohibited Activities.

(1) In addition to those violations listed in Section 23A-4-1203, an outfitter, guide, or spotter shall not:

- (a) intentionally obstruct, hinder, interfere, or attempt to obstruct, hinder or interfere lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping by a person who is not a client or an employee of the outfitter, guide, or spotter;
- (b) fail to report to the division within 20 days any violation of a state or federal wildlife, regulations, or guiding statute by a client or by an employee of the outfitter, guide, or spotter;
- (c) fail to report any serious injury or fatality of a client or outfitter staff to a federal, state, county, or local law enforcement authority;
- (d) fail to comply with state or federal wildlife laws and rules;
- (e) fail to produce documentation of outfitters, guides, and spotters assigned to a specific client;
- (e) provide outfitter, guide, or spotter services to a person who is not properly licensed to hunt or fish for the species sought by that person;
- (f) fail to conform to the generally accepted and recognized standards and ethics of the profession; or
- (g) use the affiliate code of an outfitter with the permission of the outfitter or an agreement to work with the outfitter.

R657-72-7. Violations.

- (1) A violation of Utah law, rule, or terms of a certificate of registration may result in:
- (a) revocation of the certificate of registration; and
 - (b) suspension of the outfitter's, guide's, or spotter's privilege to hunt and/or fish.
- (2) The suspension or revocation process will be administered pursuant to Rule R657-26.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-9. Taking Migratory Game Birds - Waterfowl, Snipe, Coot, American Crow, Band-Tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White-Winged Dove, and Sandhill Crane.

R657-9a-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 50 CFR 32.64 and 50 CFR 27.21, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking certain migratory game birds.

(2) Specific dates, areas, limits, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking certain migratory game birds.

R657-9-2. Definitions.

(1)(a) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.

(b) The terms provided in Subsections 58-79-102(1) through (7) are incorporated by reference.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

(b) "Baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

(c) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(d) "Daily Bag Limit" means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination, aggregate, of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

(e) "Dark geese" means the following species: cackling, Canada, and brant.

(f) "Light geese" means the following species: snow, blue and Ross'.

(g) "Live decoys" means tame or captive ducks, geese or other live birds.

(h) "Migratory game bird" means waterfowl, snipe, coot, American crow, band-tailed pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged dove, and Sandhill crane.

(i) "Off-highway vehicle" means any motor vehicle designed for or capable of travel over unimproved terrain.

(j) "Permanent waterfowl blind" means any waterfowl blind that is left unattended overnight and that is not a portable structure capable of immediate relocation.

(k) "Possession limit" the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

(l) "Retrieval Zone" means areas adjacent to rest areas where game retrieval is allowed but hunting is restricted.

(m) "Sinkbox" means any type of low floating device, having a depression, affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

(n) "Snipe" means the following species: common, Jack, pin-tailed, solitary, Swinhoe's and Wilson's snipe.

(o) "Transport" means to ship, export, import or receive or deliver for shipment.

(p) "Waterfowl" means ducks, mergansers, geese and tundra swans.

(q) "Waterfowl blind" means any manufactured place of concealment, including boats, rafts, tents, excavated pits, or similar structures, which have been designed to partially or completely conceal a person while hunting waterfowl.

(r) "Waterfowl Management Area" means the same as a Wildlife Management Area as defined in Section 23A-6-101(3), including following properties owned or managed by the division primarily for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks, mergansers, geese, tundra swans, and other waterfowl:

(i) Bear River Bay

(ii) Bicknell Bottoms;

(iii) BlackHawk;

(~~iii~~iv) Blue Lake;

(~~iv~~v) Brown's Park;

(v~~i~~) Clear Lake;

(v~~i~~ii) Desert Lake;

(viii~~i~~) Farmington Bay;

(~~viii~~ix) Fitzgerald;

(~~ix~~x) Harold Crane;

(x~~i~~) Howard Slough;

(xii~~i~~) Locomotive Springs;

(xiii~~i~~) Mallard Springs;

(xiv~~i~~) Manti Meadows;

(x~~iv~~v) Mills Meadows;

(xvi~~i~~) Ogden Bay;

(xvii~~i~~) Powell Slough;

(xviii) Provo River Delta;
(~~xviii~~xix) Public Shooting Grounds;
(~~xix~~) Redmond Marsh;
(xxi) Rock Island;
(xxi) Salt Creek;
(xxiii) Stewart Lake;
(xxi~~v~~ii) Timpie Springs;
(xxiv) Topaz;
(xxvi) Warm Springs; and
(xxvii) Willard Spur.

R657-9-3. Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program.

- (1) A person must obtain a Migratory Game Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration number to hunt migratory game birds.
- (2) A person may register online as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds to obtain their HIP registration number. A person must write their HIP registration number on their current valid hunting license.
- (3) Any person obtaining a HIP registration number will be required to provide their:
 - (a) hunting license number;
 - (b) hunting license type;
 - (c) name;
 - (d) address;
 - (e) phone number;
 - (f) birth date; and
 - (g) information about the previous year's migratory game bird hunts.
- (4) Lifetime license holders will receive a sticker every three years from the division to write their HIP number on and place on their lifetime license card.
- (5) Any person hunting migratory game birds will be required, while in the field, to possess a hunting or combination license with the HIP registration number recorded on the license, demonstrating they have registered and provided information for the HIP program.

R675-9-4. Stamp Requirements.

- (1) Any person 16 years of age or older must obtain a federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp before hunting waterfowl, and must have the physical stamp or proof of electronic stamp in possession when hunting waterfowl.
- (2) A physical federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp must be validated by the hunter's signature in ink across the face of the stamp.
- (3) A electronic federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp does not need to be signed.
- (4) A federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamp is not required for any person under the age of 16.
- (5) Federal migratory bird hunting and conservation stamps are non-transferrable.

R657-9-5. Permit Applications for Tundra Swan, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Sandhill Crane.

- (1) A person must obtain a permit before taking any migratory game bird, except for:
 - (a) American Crow;
 - (b) Mourning Dove;
 - (c) White-winged Dove; and
 - (d) Waterfowl except for Tundra swan.
- (2) Tundra swan permits are issued pursuant to Section R657-62-22.
- (3) Band-tailed pigeon permits may be obtained from division offices, through the mail, and through the division's internet address by the first week in August, free of charge.
- (4)(a) Sandhill crane permits will be issued pursuant to Section R657-62-21.
 - (b) Residents and nonresidents may apply.
 - (c) The application period for Sandhill crane is published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking Waterfowl and migratory game birds.
 - (d) A person may obtain only one Sandhill crane permit each year.

R657-9-6. Tagging Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes.

- (1)(a) A person that takes a tundra swan or sandhill crane must tag the carcass, as provided in Section 23A-4-709, immediately upon taking possession of the carcass and reaching a location listed in Subsections (i) through (iii), that is closest to the place where the carcass was first retrieved by the hunter, another person, or a dog:
 - (i) the blind or fixed location in the field where the person taking the tundra swan was set up and from where they shot at the tundra swan;
 - (ii) a vessel available to the person; or
 - (iii) the first area of land free from standing water.

(b) "Vessel" means, for the purposes of this subsection, any type of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(2) To tag a tundra swan and sandhill crane carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;
(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with the date the tundra swan or sandhill crane was taken; and

(c) attach the tag to the tundra swan carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating the date; or
(b) tag more than one tundra swan or sandhill crane carcass using the same tag.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue a tundra swan or sandhill crane after:

(a) shooting and retrieving the tundra swan or sandhill crane;
(b) the tag is detached from the permit; or
(c) any of the notches have been removed from the tag.

R657-9-7. Return of Tundra Swan Harvest and Hunt Information.

(1) Tundra swan permit holders who do not hunt or are unsuccessful in taking a tundra swan must respond to the tundra swan questionnaire through the division's internet address, or by telephone, within 30 calendar days of the conclusion of the prescribed tundra swan hunting season.

(2)(a) Except for as provided in Subsection (b), within three days of harvest, any tundra swan permit holders who successfully harvest any swan species must personally present the swan or its head to the division or Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge for measurement and provide all requested harvest information.

(b) Anyone who takes a trumpeter swan must bring the entire swan to the division or Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

(3) Hunters who fail to comply with the requirements of Subsection (1) or (2) shall be ineligible to:

(a) obtain a tundra swan permit the following season; and
(b) obtain a tundra swan permit after the first season of ineligibility until the swan orientation course is retaken.

(4) Late tundra swan questionnaires may be accepted pursuant to Subsection R657-42-9(3). Tundra swan permit holders are still required to present the swan or its head for measurement to a division office.

R657-9-8. Authorized Weapons.

(1) Migratory game birds may be taken with a shotgun, crossbow or archery tackle, including a draw lock.

(2) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

(3) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells, except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

(4)(a) It is unlawful to use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve migratory birds or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a records classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Section 63G-2-305".

R657-9-9. Nontoxic Shot.

(1) Only nontoxic shot may be in possession or used while hunting waterfowl, snipe, coot; and sandhill crane.

(2) A person may not possess or use lead shot:

(a) while hunting waterfowl, snipe coot, or sandhill crane in any area of the state;
(b) on federal refuges;

(c) on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, BlackHawk, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadow, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Provo River Delta, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Stewart's Lake, Timpie Springs, Willard Spur; or

(d) on the Scott M. Matheson or Utah Lake Wetland Preserve..

R657-9-10. Use of Weapons on State Waterfowl Management Areas.

(1) A person may not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle on the following Waterfowl or Wildlife Management Areas: Bicknell Bottoms, BlackHawk, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Stewart's Lake, Timpie Springs Topaz Utah Lake Wetland Preserve, and Provo River Delta during any time of the year.

(2) The following exceptions apply to Subsection (1):

(a) the use of authorized weapons as provided in Section R657-9-8 during waterfowl hunting seasons for lawful hunting activities;

- (b) as otherwise authorized by the division in a special use permit, certificate of registration, rule, proclamation, or order of the Wildlife Board; or
- (c) for lawful purposes of self-defense.

R657-9-11. Shooting Hours.

- (1) A person may not hunt, pursue, or take wildlife, or discharge any firearm or archery tackle on state-owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, on division-controlled waterfowl management areas, or on federal refuges between official sunset and one-half hour before official sunrise.
- (2) Legal shooting hours for taking or attempting to take migratory game birds are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds.

R657-9-12. Airborne, Terrestrial, and Aquatic Vehicles.

- (1) Migratory game birds may not be taken:
 - (a) from a motorboat or other craft having a motor attached;
 - (b) from a sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off or sails furled and its progress has ceased; or
 - (c) by means or aid of any motor driven land, water or air conveyance, or any sailboat used to or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying or stirring up of any migratory bird.
- (2) A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.

R657-9-13. Airboats.

- (1) Air-thrust or air-propelled boats and personal watercraft are not allowed in designated parts of the following areas for the purposes of waterfowl hunting:
 - (a) Box Elder County: Box Elder Lake, Bear River, that part of Harold S. Crane within one-half mile of all dikes and levees, Locomotive Springs, Public Shooting Grounds and Salt Creek, that part of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge north of "D" line dike, and outside Units 1, 3, 4 and 5 as posted.
 - (b) Daggett County: Brown's Park;
 - (c) Davis County: Howard Slough, Ogden Bay and Farmington Bay within diked units or as posted;
 - (d) Emery County: Desert Lake;
 - (e) Millard County: Clear Lake, Topaz Slough;
 - (f) Salt Lake County: BlackHawk;
 - (g) Tooele County: Timpie Springs;
 - (h) Uintah County: Stewart's Lake;
 - (i) Utah County: Powell Slough;
 - (j) Utah County: Provo River Delta;
 - (k) Wayne County: Bicknell Bottoms; and
 - (l) Weber County: Ogden Bay within diked units or as posted and the portion of Harold S. Crane Waterfowl Management Area that falls within the county line.
- (2) "Personal watercraft" means, for purposes of this section, a motorboat that is:
 - (a) less than 16 feet in length;
 - (b) propelled by a water jet pump; and
 - (c) designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than sitting or standing inside the vessel.

R657-9-14. Motorized Vehicle Access.

- (1) "Motorized vehicle" means, for purposes of this section, a vehicle that is self-propelled or possesses the ability to be self-propelled. This does not include vehicles moved solely by human power, motorized wheelchairs, or an electric personal assisted mobility device.
- (2) Except as provided in subsections (a) through (c), Section R657-28-4 outlines prohibited activities on waterfowl and wildlife management areas.
 - (a) Motorized vehicle travel is restricted to county roads, improved roads, and parking areas.
 - (b) Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on state waterfowl management areas, except as marked and posted open.
 - (c) Off-highway vehicles are not permitted on Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.
 - (d) Motorized vehicle use is restricted on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas as specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

R657-9-15. Sinkbox.

- (1) A person may not take migratory game birds from or by means, aid, or use of any type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

R657-9-16. Live Decoys.

A person may not take migratory game birds with the use of live birds as decoys or from an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been, for a period of ten consecutive days before such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl.

R657-9-17. Amplified Bird Calls.

A person may not use recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

R657-9-18. Baiting.

(1) A person may not take migratory game birds by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

(2) This section does not prohibit the following:

(a) The taking of any migratory game bird on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

(i) standing crops or flooded standing crops including aquatics, standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation, flooded harvested croplands, or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

(ii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

(iii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or

(iv) standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.

(3) The taking of any migratory game bird, except waterfowl, coots and cranes, is legal on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

R657-9-19. Possession During Closed Season.

No person shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds during the closed season.

R657-9-20. Live Birds.

(1) Every migratory game bird wounded by hunting and reduced to possession by the hunter shall be immediately killed and become part of the daily bag limit.

(2) No person shall at any time, or by any means possess or transport live migratory game birds.

R657-9-21. Waste of Migratory Game Birds.

(1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or any part of them.

(2) No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird pursuant to this rule without making a reasonable effort to immediately retrieve the bird and include it in that person's daily bag limit.

R657-9-22. Termination of Possession.

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when the birds have been delivered by the hunter to another person as a gift; to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

R657-9-23. Tagging Requirement.

(1) No person shall put or leave any migratory game bird at any place other than at that person's personal abode, or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transporting or storing, including temporary storage, or for having taxidermy services performed unless there is attached to the birds a disposal receipt, donation receipt or transportation slip signed by the hunter stating the hunter's address, the total number and species of birds, the date such birds were killed and the Utah hunting license number under which they were taken.

(2) Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor may not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

R657-9-24. Donation or Gift.

No person may receive, possess or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds taken, the date such birds were taken and the Utah hunting license number under which taken.

R657-9-25. Custody of Another Person's Migratory Game Bird.

No person may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required by Section R657-9-23.

R657-9-26. Species Identification Requirement.

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each bird while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

R657-9-27. Marking Package or Container.

(1) No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers and kinds of species of birds contained therein clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

(2) A Utah shipping permit obtained from the division must accompany each package shipped within or from Utah.

R657-9-28. Migratory Bird Preservation Facilities.

(1) "Migratory bird preservation facility" means, for purposes of this section:

(i) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration;

(ii) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or

(iii) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

(2) No migratory bird preservation facility shall:

(a) receive or have in custody any migratory game bird unless accurate records are maintained that can identify each bird received by, or in the custody of, the facility by the name of the person from whom the bird was obtained, and show:

(i) the number of each species;

(ii) the location where taken;

(iii) the date such birds were received;

(iv) the name and address of the person from whom such birds were received;

(v) the date such birds were disposed of; and

(vi) the name and address of the person to whom such birds were delivered; or

(b) destroy any records required to be maintained under this section for a period of one year following the last entry on record.

(3) Record keeping as required by this section will not be necessary at hunting clubs that do not fully process migratory birds by removal of the head and wings.

(4) No migratory bird preservation facility shall prevent any person authorized to enforce this part from entering such facilities at all reasonable hours and inspecting the records and the premises where such operations are being carried out.

R657-9-29. Importation.

A person may not:

(1) import migratory game birds belonging to another person; or

(2) import migratory game birds over the following importation limits:

(a) From any country except Canada and Mexico, during any one calendar week beginning on Sunday, not to exceed ten ducks, singly or in the aggregate of all species, and five geese, singly or in the aggregate of all species;

(b) From Canada, not to exceed the maximum number to be exported by Canadian authorities;

(c) From Mexico, not to exceed the maximum number permitted by Mexican authorities in any one day: provided that if the importer has a Mexican hunting permit date-stamped by appropriate Mexican wildlife authorities on the first day the importer hunts in Mexico, the importer may import the applicable Mexican possession limit corresponding to the days actually hunted during that particular trip.

R657-9-30. Use of Dogs.

(1) An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in the Wildlife Code, administrative rules issued under Wildlife Code, or a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

(2) Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve turkey during open turkey hunting seasons.

(3) Dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife management and waterfowl management areas, subject to the following conditions:

(a) dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the division:

(i) Annabella;

(ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;

(iii) Bicknell Bottoms;

(iv) BlackHawk;

(v) Blue Lake;

(vi) Browns Park;

- (vii) Bud Phelps;
- (viii) Clear Lake;
- (ix) Desert Lake;
- (x) Farmington Bay;
- (xi) Harold S. Crane;
- (xii) Hatt's Ranch;
- (xiii) Howard Slough;
- (xiv) Huntington;
- (xv) James Walter Fitzgerald;
- (xvi) Kevin Conway;
- (xvii) Locomotive Springs;
- (xviii) Manti Meadows;
- (xix) Mills Meadows;
- (xx) Montes Creek;
- (xxi) Nephi;
- (xxii) Ogden Bay;
- (xxiii) Pahvant;
- (xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;
- (xxv) Redmond Marsh;
- (xxvi) Richfield;
- (xxvii) Roosevelt;
- (xxviii) Salt Creek;
- (xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;
- (xxx) Steward Lake;
- (xxxi) Timpie Springs;
- (xxxii) Topaz Slough;
- (xxxiii) Utah Lake Wetland Preserve;
- (xxxiv) Vernal; and
- (xxxv) Willard Bay.

(b) the division may establish special restrictions for division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific division properties and at Regional offices;

(c) organized events or group gatherings of 25 or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on division properties may require a special use permit as described in Rule R657-28;

(d) dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the division without a special use permit; and

(e) dogs are only allowed on the Nature Trail within the Hasenyager Nature Preserve and must be on a leash; and

(f) the Skipper Bay Trail of the Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area is managed by the Utah County Trail Department, and the Utah County trial system leash ordinance applies.

R657-9-31. Season Dates and Bag and Possession Limits.

(1) Season dates and bag and possession limits are specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds.

(2) A youth duck hunting day may be allowed for any person 17 years of age or younger on July 31st of the year in which the youth hunting day is held, as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe and coot.

R657-9-32. Rest Areas and No Shooting Areas.

(1) A person may only access and use state waterfowl management areas in accordance with state and federal law, state administrative code, and proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(2)(a) The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "rest areas" for wildlife that are closed to the public and trespass of any kind is prohibited.

(b) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are designated as rest areas:

(i) that portion of Clear Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Spring Lake;

(ii) that portion of Desert Lake Waterfowl Management Area known as Desert Lake;

(iii) that portion of Public Shooting Grounds Waterfowl Management Area that lies above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as Duck Lake;

(iv) that portion of Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area known as Rest Lake;

(v) that portion of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area that lies in the northwest quarter of unit one; and

(iv) that portion of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area known as North Bachman and extending north to the Unit one dike road and east to the spillways of South run road.

(c) Maps of all rest areas will be available at division offices, on the division's website, and to the extent necessary, marked with signage at each rest area.

- (3)(a) The division may establish portions of state waterfowl management areas as "No Shooting Areas" where the discharge of weapons for the purposes of hunting is prohibited.
- (b) No Shooting Areas remain open to the public for other lawful activities.
- (c) In addition to any areas identified in the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, snipe, and coot, the following areas are No Shooting Areas:
- (i) all of Antelope Island, including all areas within 600 feet of the upland vegetative line or other clearly defined high-water mark;
 - (ii) within 600 feet of the north and south side of the center line of Antelope Island causeway;
 - (iii) within 600 feet of all structures found at Brown's Park Waterfowl Management Area;
 - (iv) the following portions of Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area:
 - (A) within 600 feet of the Headquarters;
 - (B) within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles;
 - (C) within the area designated as the Hasenyager Nature Preserve; and
 - (D) within the 300 foot retrieval zone around the Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area rest area;
 - (v) within the 200 foot retrieval zone extending east from the southeast signed and posted corner of Rest Lake at Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area north to the intersection with Salt Creek bypass canal and signed and posted northeast corner of Rest Lake;
 - (vi) the following portions of Provo River Delta Wildlife Management Area:
 - (A) within 600 feet of Lakeview Parkway;
 - (B) within 600 feet of Boat Harbor Drive;
 - (C) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta parking lot; and
 - (D) within 600 feet of the Provo River Delta trail;
 - (vii) within 600 feet of the headquarters area of Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area;
 - (viii) within the boundaries of all State Parks except those designated open by appropriate signage as provided in Section R651-614-4;
 - (ix) within 1/3 of a mile of the Great Salt Lake Marina;
 - (x) below the high-water mark of Gunnison Bend Reservoir and its inflow upstream to the Southerland Bridge, Millard County;
 - (xi) any property within the boundary of the Salt Lake International Airport; and
 - (xii) any property within the boundaries of federal migratory bird refuges, unless hunting waterfowl specifically authorized by the federal government.
- (4) The division reserves the right to manage division lands and regulate its use consistent with Section 23A-6-404 and Rule R657-28.

R657-9-33. Falconry.

- (1) Falconers must obtain a valid hunting or combination license, a federal migratory bird stamp and a falconry certificate of registration to hunt waterfowl and must also obtain:
- (a) a band-tailed pigeon permit before taking band-tailed pigeon; and
 - (b) a sandhill crane permit before taking sandhill crane.
- (2) Areas open and bag and possession limits for falconry are specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking migratory game birds.

R657-9-34. Waterfowl Blinds on Waterfowl Management and Wildlife Management Areas.

- (1) Waterfowl blinds on division waterfowl management and wildlife management areas may be constructed or used as follows:
- (a) waterfowl blinds may not be left unattended overnight, except for blinds constructed entirely of non-woody, vegetative materials that naturally occur where the blind is located;
 - (b) trees and shrubs on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas that are live or dead standing may not be cut or damaged except as expressly authorized in writing by the division;
 - (c) excavating soil or rock on waterfowl management and wildlife management areas above or below water surface is strictly prohibited, except as expressly authorized in writing by the division;
 - (d) rock and soil material may not be transported to waterfowl management and wildlife management areas for purposes of constructing a blind; and
 - (e) waterfowl blinds may not be constructed or used in any area or manner, which obstructs vehicular or pedestrian travel on dikes.
- (2) The restrictions set forth in Subsection (1)(a) through Subsection (1)(e) do not apply to the following waterfowl management areas:
- (a) Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area - West and North of Unit 1, Turpin Unit, and Doug Miller Unit;
 - (b) Howard Slough Waterfowl Management Area - West and South of the exterior dike separating the waterfowl management area's fresh water impoundments from the Great Salt Lake;

- (c) Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management Area - West of Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit 3; and
 - (d) Harold Crane Waterfowl Management Area - one half mile North and West of the exterior dike separating the waterfowl management area's fresh water impoundments from Willard Spur.
- (3)(a) The restrictions set forth in Subsection (1)(a) through Subsection (1)(c) do not apply to blinds on Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area.
- (b) The placement or use of any permanent blind on Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area requires written permission from the division and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.
- (4) Waterfowl blinds constructed or maintained on waterfowl management areas in violation of this section may be removed or destroyed by the division without notice.
- (5) Any unoccupied, permanent waterfowl blind located on state land open to public access for hunting may be used by any person without priority to the person that constructed the blind. It being the intent of this rule to make such blinds available to any person on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- (6) Waterfowl blinds or decoys cannot be left unattended overnight on state land open to public access for hunting in an effort to reserve the particular location where the blinds or decoys are placed.
- (7) A person may not construct a new permanent blind on a waterfowl management area after June 3, 2021.

KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl

Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025

Notice of Continuation: July 2, 2021

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 50 CFR part 20

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-10. Taking Cougar.

R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing cougar.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

R657-10-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101 and 23A-8-101.
- (2) In addition:
- (a) "Canned hunt" means that a cougar is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the cougar.
 - (b) "Compensation" means anything of economic value over \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing cougar for any purpose.
 - (c) "Cougar" means Puma concolor, commonly known as mountain lion, lion, puma, panther or catamount.
 - (d) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.
 - (e) "Evidence of sex" means the sex organs of a cougar, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.
 - (f) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of any cougar.
 - (g) "Harvest objective" means an identified limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season on a particular unit.
 - (h) "Immediate family member" means a livestock owner's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild and grandchild.
 - (i) "Kitten" means a cougar that has obvious spots on its sides or its back or has obvious leg barring coloration.
 - (j) "Location of Harvest" means the exact location that the cougar is killed. GPS coordinates are preferred.
 - (k) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.
 - (l) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.
 - (m) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a cougar at bay.
 - (n) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.
 - (o) "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:
 - (i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;
 - (ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;
 - (iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;
 - (iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;
 - (v) the appropriate dates; and
 - (vi) a general description of the property.

R657-10-3. License for Taking Cougar.

Pursuant to Title 23A, Chapter 19 Licenses, Permits, and Tags, any person who first obtains a valid hunting or combination license may hunt, pursue, or trap cougar during the time period for which the license is valid.

R657-10-4. Hunting Hours.

Except as provided in Rule R657-11 Taking Furbearers and Trapping, Cougar may be taken or pursued only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

R657-10-5. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.

- (1) A person may only use weapons identified in Sections R657-5-8 through R657-5-11 or;
- (2) Rimfire firearms may be used as legal weapons if the cougar has been trapped and remains held in the trapping device.

R657-10-6. Traps and Trapping Devices.

Cougar may be taken by trapping in compliance with all Rule R657-11, Taking Furbearers and Trapping.

R657-10-7. State Parks.

- (1) Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except for those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Division of State Parks in Section R651-614-4.
- (2) State laws regarding possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting.

R657-10-8. Prohibited Methods.

(1) Cougar may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in Rule R657-11, Taking Furbearer and Trapping, and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar. Otherwise, under Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Act, it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare or in any way harm or transport cougar.

(2)(a) A person may not pursue a single cougar in repeated pursuits such that it renders the cougar physically unable to escape.

(b) After a cougar has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape if the person does not intend to harvest the cougar.

(c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off of a cougar that has been cornered or held at bay.

(3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.

(4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(5) Electronic locating equipment may not be used to locate cougars wearing electronic radio devices.

(6)(a) A person may not place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;

(b) engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar; or

(c) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including image, video, location, time or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar.

(7)(a) A person may not use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve cougar or their parts.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a record classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Section 63G -2-305".

R657-10-9. Spotlighting.

(1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:

(a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and

(b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife.

(2) This section does not apply to

the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife.

R657-10-10. Party Hunting.

A person may not take a cougar for another person.

R657-10-11. Use of Dogs.

(1) Dogs may be used to take or pursue cougar only during open seasons as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(2) A dog handler may pursue cougar provided they possesses:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license issued to the dog handler; or

(b) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-10-25(2) to pursue cougar for compensation.

(3) When dogs are used in the pursuit of a cougar, the licensed hunter intending to take the cougar must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.

(4) When dogs are used to take a cougar and there is not an open pursuit season, the dog handler must have:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license; or

(b)(i) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-10-25(2) to pursue cougar for compensation; and

(ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a paying client possessing a hunting or combination license.

(5) A dog handler may pursue cougar under:

(a) a valid hunting or combination license during the season and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit; or

(b) the pursuit for compensation provisions in this rule only during the seasons and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit.

(6)(a) An individual may not:

(i) release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit;

(ii) pursue a cougar with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls the dogs encountered in the field; or

(iii) harvest a cougar that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.

(b) An individual may not pursue or take a cougar using more than 16 dogs in a single pursuit.

- (c) The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue cougar.
- (7)(a) A dog handler pursuing cougar may retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler:
- (i) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;
 - (ii) separates from the license holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue cougar during the retrieval process; and
 - (iii) immediately releases any cougar incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.
- (b) Dogs that separate from the pack continue to count toward the maximum number of dogs allowable in pursuit.
- (c) A dog handler retrieving stray dogs under this subsection must still possess the documentation initially required to use dogs to pursue cougar as provided in this rule.

R657-10-12. Tagging Requirements.

A person may not possess a cougar pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid hunting or combination license.

R657-10-13. Evidence of Sex and Age.

- (1) Evidence of sex must remain attached to the carcass or pelt of each cougar until a permanent tag has been attached by the division.
- (2) The pelt and skull must be presented to the division in an unfrozen condition to allow the division to gather management data.
- (3) It is mandatory that a tooth (PM1) be removed by the division at the time of permanent tagging to be used for aging purposes.
- (4) The division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull or not having sufficient evidence of biological sex designation attached.

R657-10-14. Permanent Tag.

- (1)(a) Each cougar must be taken by the license holder to a conservation officer or division office within 48 hours after the date of kill to have a permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass and for the removal of a tooth.
- (b) After regular business hours, on weekends, or on holidays, a conservation officer may be reached by contacting the local police dispatch office.
- (2) A person may not possess a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period, or ship a green pelt out of Utah, or present a green pelt to a taxidermist if the green pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.
- (3) The location of harvest and a tooth sample must be provided to the division during the check-in process.

R657-10-15. Transporting Cougar.

- (1) Within 48 hours of legally harvesting a cougar, a person may transport the cougar if they possess a valid license.
- (2) A person transporting a cougar beyond 48 hours after legally harvesting a cougar, must possess a valid license and a permanent possession tag described in Section R657-10-13.

R657-10-16. Exporting Cougar from Utah.

- (1) A person may export a legally taken cougar or its parts if that person has a valid license and the cougar is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.
- (2) A person may not ship or cause to be shipped from Utah, a cougar pelt without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized division representative.

R657-10-17. Donating.

- (1) A person may donate protected wildlife or their parts to another person as provided in Section 23A-1-205.
- (2) A green pelt of any cougar donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed.
- (3) The written statement of donation must be retained with the pelt.

R657-10-18. Purchasing or Selling.

- (1) Legally obtained, green or tanned cougar hides may be purchased or sold.
- (2) A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale, or barter a tooth, claw, paw, or skull of any cougar except hides with claws attached may be sold.

R657-10-19. Waste of Wildlife.

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts.
- (2) The skinned carcass of a cougar may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

R657-10-20. Livestock Depredation and Human Health and Safety.

(1) If a cougar is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:

(a) in depredation cases, the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take cougar, may kill the cougar;

(b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredation or human health and safety concerns, who shall authorize a local hunter to take the offending cougar or notify ~~a state trapper with the~~ Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) specialist; or

(c) the livestock owner may notify a ~~UDAF specialist of the depredation~~ state trapper who may take the depredating cougar.

(2) Depredating cougar may be taken at any time by a ~~UDAF specialist~~ state trapper, supervised by the ~~Livestock Protection program~~ Predator Control Program, while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.

(3)(a) A depredating cougar may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:

(i) any weapon authorized for taking cougar; or

(ii) with the use of traps or snares

(4)(a) Any cougar taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) shall remain the property of the state and must be reported to a division office or employee within 96 hours.

(b) The division may issue a cougar damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating cougar under Subsection (1)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.

(c) A person that takes a cougar under Subsection (1)(a) or (4)(a) may acquire and use a hunting or combination license in the same year.

R657-10-21. Survey.

Each license holder who is contacted for a survey about their cougar hunting experience should participate in the survey regardless of success. Participation in the survey helps the division evaluate population trends, harvest success and collect other valuable information.

R657-10-22. Taking Cougar.

(1) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female cougar with a kitten; or

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner, or hold at bay, the same cougar during the same day after the cougar has been released.

(2) Any cougar may be taken during the prescribed seasons, except a kitten or any cougar accompanied by one or more kittens.

(3) A person may not take a cougar wearing a radio or GPS collar on any unit identified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar as being closed to the take of collared animals.

R657-10-23. Wildlife Management Areas.

(1) A person may not use motor vehicles on division-owned wildlife management areas closed to motor vehicle use during the winter without first obtaining written authorization from the appropriate division regional office.

(2) The division may, in its sole discretion, authorize limited motor vehicle access to its wildlife management areas closed to such use during the winter provided:

(a) the person seeking access to retrieve a cougar in the area;

(b) motor vehicle access is necessary to effectively hunt or pursue a cougar; and

(c) motor vehicle access will not interfere with wintering wildlife or wildlife habitat.

KEY: wildlife, cougar, game laws

Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025

Notice of Continuation: July 2, 2021

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-33. Taking Bear.

R657-33-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing bear.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

R657-33-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101 and 23A-8-101.
- (2) In addition:
- (a) "Accompany" means at a distance within which visual contact and verbal communication are maintained without the assistance of any electronic device.
- (b) "Bait" means any lure containing animal, mineral or plant materials.
- (c) "Baiting" means the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of bait to lure, attract or entice bear on or over any area.
- (d) "Bear" means *Ursus americanus*, commonly known as black bear.
- (e) "Canned hunt" means that a bear is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the bear.
- (f) "Compensation" means anything of economic value in excess of \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing bear for any purpose.
- (g) "Control permit" means a permit issued in response to bear depredation to commercial crops pursuant to Subsection R657-33-23(4).
- (h) "Cub" means a bear less than one year of age.
- (i) "Draw-lock" means a mechanical device used to hold and support the draw weight of a conventional or compound bow at any increment of draw until released by the archer using a trigger mechanism attached to the device.
- (j) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.
- (k) "Evidence of sex" means the teats, and sex organs of a bear, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.
- (l) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of a bear.
- (m) "Harvest-objective hunt" means any hunt that is identified as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (n) "Harvest-objective permit" means any permit valid on harvest-objective units.
- (o) "Harvest-objective unit" means any unit designated as harvest-objective in the hunt table of the guidebook for taking bear.
- (p) "Immediate family member" means a landowner's or lessee's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild, and grandchild.
- (q)(i) "Limited entry hunt" means any hunt listed in the hunt table, published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear, which is identified as a limited entry hunt for bear.
- (ii) The Wildlife Board may authorize certain limited entry hunts that span multiple seasons, identified in the guidebook for taking bear as multi-season limited entry hunts.
- (iii) "Limited entry hunt" does not include harvest objective hunts or pursuit only.
- (r) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry hunt, including conservation permits, expo permits, and sportsman permits.
- (s) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.
- (t) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.
- (u) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a bear at bay with dogs.
- (v) "Restricted pursuit unit" means a bear pursuit unit where pursuit is allowed only by a dog handler who:
- (i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for that particular pursuit unit;
- (ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry bear permit for the unit, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the limited entry bear permit; or
- (iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection R657-33-26(2).
- (w) "Spot-and-stalk hunt" means a hunt prohibiting the use of bait or dogs to pursue or harvest a bear.
- (x) "Spot-and-stalk permit" means a bear permit available over the counter for seasons and units designated by the Director under Section 23A-11-302. A hunter who obtains this permit may not use bait or dogs to take a bear.
- (y) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.
- (z)(i) "Valid application" means:
- (A) it is for a species for which the applicant is eligible to possess a permit;
- (B) there is a hunt for that species regardless of estimated permit numbers; and

(C) there is sufficient information on the application to process the application, including personal information, hunt information, and sufficient payment.

(ii) Applications missing any of the items in Subsection (i) may still be considered valid if the application is corrected before the deadline through the application correction process.

(aa) "Waiting period" means a specified period that a person who has obtained a bear permit must wait before applying for any other bear permit.

(bb) "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:

- (i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;
- (ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;
- (iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;
- (iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;
- (v) the appropriate dates; and
- (vi) a general description of the property.

R657-33-3. Permits for Taking Bear.

(1)(a) To harvest a bear, a person must first obtain a valid limited entry bear permit, a harvest objective bear permit, a spot-and-stalk permit, or a bear control permit for a specified hunt unit as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(b) Any person who obtains a limited entry bear permit or a harvest objective bear permit which allows the use of dogs may pursue bear without a pursuit permit while hunting during the season and on the unit for which the take permit is valid, provided the person is the dog handler.

(2)(a) A person may not apply for or obtain more than one bear permit per year, except:

(b) if the person is unsuccessful in the drawing administered by the division under Rule R657-62, the person may purchase a permit available outside of the drawing; and

(c) a person may acquire more than one bear control permit as described in Subsection R657-33-23(4).

(3) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.

(4) Residents and nonresidents may apply for and receive limited entry bear permits, and may purchase harvest objective bear permits and bear pursuit permits.

(5)(a) A person must complete a mandatory orientation course before hunting in a limited entry, harvest objective season, or pursuing a bear using a bear pursuit permit.

(b) A person must possess a certificate of completion of the mandatory orientation course while hunting or pursuing bear.

(c) The orientation course is not required to receive a bear control permit under Subsection R657-33-23(4).

(d) The orientation course shall include training on hunter ethics.

(6) To obtain a limited entry, harvest objective, spot-and-stalk permit, or bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

R657-33-4. Permits for Pursuing Bear.

(1)(a) To pursue bear without a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit, the dog handler must:

(i) obtain a valid bear pursuit permit from a division office or through the drawing administered pursuant to Rule R657-62; or

(ii) possess the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation.

(b) A bear pursuit permit or exemption therefrom does not allow a person to kill a bear.

(2) Residents and nonresidents may purchase bear pursuit permits consistent with the requirements of this rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.

(3) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license.

R657-33-5. Hunting Hours.

Bear may be taken or pursued only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

R657-33-6. Firearms, Archery Equipment, Crossbows, and Airguns.

(1) A person may only use weapons identified in Sections R657-5-8 through R657-5-11.

(2) A person is prohibited from using weapons identified in Section R657-5-7.

R657-33-7. Traps and Trapping Devices.

(1) Bear may not be taken with a trap, snare or any other trapping device, except as authorized by the division.

(2) Bear accidentally caught in any trapping device must be released unharmed.

(3)(a) Authorization must be obtained from a division representative to remove the carcass of a bear from any trapping device.

(b) The carcass shall remain the property of Utah and must be surrendered to the division.

R657-33-8. State Parks.

- (1) Hunting of wildlife is allowed within the boundaries of all state park areas except for those areas and hunts specifically closed by the Division of State Parks under Section R651-614-4.
- (2) State laws regarding possession and discharge of dangerous weapons apply in state park areas open to hunting.

R657-33-9. Prohibited Methods.

- (1) Bear may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Otherwise, under Title 23A, the Wildlife Resources Act, it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare, or in any way harm or transport bear.
- (2)(a) A person may not pursue a single bear in repeated pursuits such that it renders the bear physically unable to escape.
- (b) After a bear has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered, legally baited or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape.
- (c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off a bear that has been cornered or held at bay.
- (3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.
- (4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.
- (5)(a) A person may not place, maintain, or use a trail camera as prohibited in Section 23A-5-307;
- (b) engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera or other non-handheld device media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear; or
- (c) engage in the storage and sale or purchase of stored media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of bear.
- (6)(a) A person may not use any protected gps location data or protected radio collar data to locate, track, take, or retrieve or any attempt to locate, track, take, or retrieve bear or their parts.
- (b) For the purposes of this subsection, "protected" means "a record classified as protected under the Government Records Access and Management Act, Section 63G-2-305."

R657-33-10. Spotlighting.

- (1) Except as provided in Section 23A-1-204:
 - (a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and
 - (b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is probable cause of attempting to locate protected wildlife.
- (2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:
 - (a) the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife; or
 - (b) a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7, Concealed Firearm Act, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-33-11. Party Hunting.

A person may not take a bear for another person.

R657-33-12. Use of Dogs.

- (1) Dogs may be used to take or pursue bear only during authorized hunts as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (2) A dog handler may pursue bear in a unit and during a season permitting the use of dogs, provided he or she possesses:
 - (a) a valid limited entry or harvest objective bear permit issued to the dog handler;
 - (b) a valid bear pursuit permit; or
 - (c) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation.
- (3) When dogs are used to pursue a bear, the licensed hunter intending to take the bear must be present when the dogs are released and must continuously participate in the hunt thereafter until the hunt is completed.
- (4) When dogs are used to take a bear during a restricted pursuit season or when there is not an open pursuit season, the dog handler must have:
 - (a) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs issued to the dog handler for the unit being hunted;
 - (b)(i) a valid bear pursuit permit; and
 - (ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a hunter possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted; or
 - (c)(i) the documentation and certifications required in Subsection R657-33-26(2) to pursue bear for compensation; and
 - (ii) be accompanied, as provided in Subsection (3), by a paying client possessing a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs for the unit being hunted.

- (5) A dog handler may pursue bear under:
 - (a) a bear pursuit permit only during the season and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit;
 - (b) a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit authorizing the use of dogs only during the season and in the area designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook for that permit; or
 - (c) the pursuit for compensation provisions in this rule only during the seasons and in the areas designated by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook open to pursuit.
- (6)(a) An individual may not:
 - (i) release into the field more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit;
 - (ii) pursue a bear with more than the maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls the dogs encountered in the field; or
 - (iii) harvest a bear that was pursued using more than the allowable maximum number of dogs.
- (b) An individual may not pursue or take a bear using more than:
 - (i) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for the spring restricted pursuit season;
 - (ii) 8 dogs in a single pursuit for the summer restricted pursuit season; and
 - (iii) 16 dogs in a single pursuit for all other bear hunts allowing the use of dogs.
- (c) The maximum number of dogs allowed in a single pursuit is cumulative across all members of a hunting party, even if multiple members of the hunting party possess authorization to use dogs to pursue bear.
- (7)(a) A dog handler pursuing bear may retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler:
 - (i) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;
 - (ii) separates from the permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and
 - (iii) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.
- (b) Dogs that separate from the pack continue to count towards the maximum number of dogs allowable in pursuit.
- (c) A dog handler retrieving stray dogs under this subsection must still possess the documentation initially required to use dogs to pursue bear as provided in this rule.

R657-33-13. Certificate of Registration Required for Bear Baiting.

- (1) A certificate of registration for baiting must be obtained before establishing a bait station.
- (2) Certificates of registration for bear baiting are issued only to holders of limited entry permits authorizing the use of bait, as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (3) A certificate of registration may be obtained from the division office within the region where the bait station will be established by applying on the division website.
- (4) A new certificate of registration must be obtained before moving a bait station. All materials used as bait must be removed from the old site before the issuing of a new certificate of registration.
- (5) The following information must be provided to obtain a certificate of registration for baiting: a 1:24000 USGS quad map with the bait location marked, or the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) or latitude and longitude coordinates of the bait station, including the datum, type of bait used and written permission from the appropriate landowner for private lands.
- (6)(a) Any person interested in baiting on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management must verify that the lands are open to baiting before applying for and receiving a certificate of registration for bear baiting.
- (b) Information on areas that are open to baiting on National Forests must be obtained from district offices.
- (c) Issuance of a certificate of registration for baiting does not authorize an individual to bait if it is otherwise unlawful to bait under the regulations of the applicable land management agency.
- (7) A handling fee must accompany the application.
- (8) A person may hunt over a bait station only if:
 - (a) the person is listed on the certificate of registration and possesses the certificate of registration in the field; or
 - (b) possesses written permission from the certificate of registration holder to hunt over the bait station.
- (9) Any person tending a bait station must be listed on the certificate of registration for that bait station.

R657-33-14. Use of Bait.

- (1)(a) A person who has obtained a limited entry bear permit for a season and hunt unit that allows baiting may use firearms and archery equipment as provided in Section R657-33-6.
- (b) Bear lured to a bait station may only be taken using firearms and archery equipment approved by the Wildlife Board and described in the guidebook for taking bear.
- (c) A person may establish or use no more than two bait stations. The bait stations may only be used during periods designated in the guidebook for taking bear.
- (d) Bear lured to a bait station may not be taken with dogs.
- (e) Bait may not be contained in or include any metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard, or paper except that a single metal container with a maximum size of 55 gallons may be used if securely attached at the bait site. Metal containers may not be used within designated federal wilderness areas.
- (f) The bait station must be marked with a sign provided by the division and posted within 10 feet of the bait.
- (g) A dog handler may not intentionally run dogs off a bait station while pursuing bear.

- (2)(a) Bait may be placed only in areas open to hunting and only during the open seasons.
- (b) All materials used as bait including metal containers, if used, must be removed within 72 hours after the close of the season or within 72 hours after the persons, who are registered for that bait station harvest a bear.
- (3) A person may:
 - (i) use nongame fish as bait, except those listed as prohibited in Rule R657-13 and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for Taking Fish and Crayfish;
 - (ii) not use other species of protected wildlife as bait; or
 - (iii) not use any chocolate or cocoa products as bait.
- (4)(a) Domestic livestock or its parts, including processed meat scraps, may be used as bait.
- (b) A person using domestic livestock or their parts for bait must have in possession:
 - (i) a certificate of brand inspection, bill of sale, or other proof of ownership or legal possession.
- (5) Bait may not be placed within:
 - (a) 100 yards of water or a public road or designated trail; or
 - (b) 1/2 mile of any permanent dwelling or campground.
- (6) This Section does not authorize the violation of any rules or regulations set by private landowners or public land management agencies.

R657-33-15. Tagging Requirements.

- (1) The carcass of a bear must be tagged in accordance with Section 23A-4-709.
- (2) The carcass of a bear must be tagged with a temporary possession tag before the carcass is moved from or the hunter leaves the site of kill.
- (3) A person may not hunt or pursue bear after the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.
- (4) The temporary possession tag:
 - (a) must remain attached to the pelt or unskinned carcass until the permanent possession tag is attached; and
 - (b) is only valid for 48 hours after the date of kill.
- (5) A person may not possess a bear pelt or unskinned carcass without a valid permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass. This provision does not apply to a person in possession of a properly tagged carcass or pelt within 48 hours after the kill, provided the person was issued and is in possession of a valid permit.

R657-33-16. Evidence of Sex and Age.

- (1) Evidence of sex must remain attached to the carcass or pelt of each bear until a permanent tag has been attached by the division.
- (2) The pelt and skull must be presented to the division in an unfrozen condition to allow the division to gather management data.
- (3) The division may seize any pelt not accompanied by its skull.

R657-33-17. Permanent Tag.

- (1) Each bear taken by the permit holder must be checked by a division representative within 48 hours after the date of kill to have a permanent possession tag affixed to the pelt or unskinned carcass.
- (2) A person may not possess a green pelt after the 48-hour check-in period, ship a green pelt out of Utah, or present a green pelt to a taxidermist if the green pelt does not have a permanent possession tag attached.
- (3) The location of harvest and a tooth sample must be provided to the division during the check-in process.

R657-33-18. Transporting Bear.

Bear that have been legally taken may be transported by the permit holder provided the bear is properly tagged and the permittee possesses a valid permit.

R657-33-19. Exporting Bear from Utah.

- (1) A person may export a legally taken bear or its parts if that person has a valid permit and the bear is properly tagged with a permanent possession tag.
- (2) A person may not ship or cause to be shipped from Utah, a bear pelt without first obtaining a shipping permit issued by an authorized division representative.

R657-33-20. Donating.

- (1) A person may donate protected wildlife or their parts to another person in accordance with Section 23A-1-205.
- (2) A written statement of donation must be kept with the protected wildlife or parts showing:
 - (a) the number and species of protected wildlife or parts donated;
 - (b) the date of donation;
 - (c) the permit number of the donor and the permanent possession tag number; and
 - (d) the signature of the donor.
- (3) A green pelt of any bear donated to another person must have a permanent possession tag affixed.

- (4) The written statement of donation must be retained with the pelt.

R657-33-21. Purchasing or Selling.

- (1) Legally obtained tanned bear hides may be purchased or sold.
(2) A person may not purchase, sell, offer for sale or barter a green pelt, gall bladder, tooth, claw, paw or skull of any bear.

R657-33-22. Waste of Wildlife.

- (1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts in accordance with Section 23A-5-314.
(2) The skinned carcass of a bear may be left in the field and does not constitute waste of wildlife.

R657-33-23. Livestock and Commercial Crop Depredation.

- (1) If a bear is harassing, chasing, disturbing, harming, attacking or killing livestock, or has committed such an act within the past 96 hours:

(a) the livestock owner, an immediate family member or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, may kill the bear;

(b) a landowner or livestock owner may notify the division of the depredating bear and the division may:

(i) authorize a local hunter to take a bear using a valid permit; or

(ii) request that the offending bear be removed by Utah Department of Agriculture and Food ("UDAF") specialiststate trapper, supervised by the Livestock Protection Program Predator Control Program; or

(c) the livestock owner may notify a UDAF specialist of the depredationstate trapper, and ~~that specialist~~ the state trapper or another agency employee may take the depredating bear.

(2) Depredating bear may be taken at any time by a UDAF specialiststate trapper while acting in the performance of the person's assigned duties and in accordance with procedures approved by the division.

(3) A depredating bear may be taken by those persons authorized in Subsection (1)(a) with:

(a) any weapon authorized for taking bear; or

(b) snares only with written authorization from the director of the division and subject to any conditions and restrictions set out in the written authorization.

(i) The option in Subsection (3)(b) may only be authorized in the case of chronic depredation verified by UDAF or division personnel where numerous livestock have been killed by a depredating bear.

(4) A person authorized under Section (3) to take depredating bear may take no more than two bears per incident.

(5)(a) The division may issue depredation permits to take bear on specified private lands and public land grazing allotments with a chronic depredation situation where numerous livestock have been killed by bear.

(b) The division may:

(i) issue one or more depredation permits to the affected livestock owner or a designee, provided the livestock owner does not receive monetary consideration from the designee for the opportunity to use the depredation permit;

(ii) determine the legal weapons and methods of take allowed; and

(iii) specify the area and season that the permit is valid.

(6)(a) Any bear taken under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) shall remain the property of the state and must be delivered to a division office or employee within 96 hours.

(b) The division may issue a bear depredation permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) that authorizes the person to keep the carcass.

(c) A person that takes a bear under Subsection (1)(a) or (5)(a) may acquire and use a limited entry permit or harvest objective cougar permit in the same year.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsections (6)(b) and (6)(c), a person may retain no more than one bear annually.

(7)(a) The division may issue one or more control permits to an owner or lessee of private land to remove a bear causing damage to cultivated crops on cleared and planted land provided the following conditions are satisfied:

(i) the landowner or lessee contacts the appropriate division office within 96 hours of the damage occurring or provides documentation of previous chronic damage incidents;

(ii) the damaged cultivated crop is raised and utilized by the landowner or lessee for commercial gain and with a reasonable expectation of generating a profit;

(iii) at least 5 acres of the private land is placed in agricultural use pursuant to Section 59-2-502 and eligible for agricultural use valuation as provided in Sections 59-2-503 and 59-2-504;

(iv) the division confirms that the private land where the cultivated crop occurs has experienced chronic recurring damage from bears, or that there will likely be chronic recurring damage if offending bears are not immediately removed;

(v) the landowner, an immediate family member, or an employee of the owner on a regular payroll, and not hired specifically to take bear, receives the control permit from the division to remove the bear prior to initiating such action; and

(vi) the bear removal is otherwise in accordance with Utah law.

(b) The division may issue control permits described in Subsection (7)(a) to identify restrictions necessary and to balance the threat to commercial crops on cleared and planted land and the wildlife resource, such as:

(i) locations on the landowner or lessee's private property where offending bears may be taken;

- (ii) the total number of control permits that may be issued; and
- (iii) reporting requirements to the division.
- (c) Nothing herein mandates the division to issue control permits for a landowner or lessee to remove bears from their private property in lieu of:
 - (i) the landowner or lessee taking nonlethal preventative measures in protecting their private property; and
 - (ii) the division undertaking wildlife management techniques as they deem appropriate.
- (8)(a) Any bear taken pursuant to Subsections (1) and (7) shall:
 - (i) be delivered to a division office or employee within 48 hours; and
 - (ii) remain the property of the state, except the division may sell a bear damage permit to a person who has killed a depredating bear if that person wishes to maintain possession of the bear.
- (b) A person may only retain one bear carcass annually under this Section.

R657-33-24. Questionnaire.

Each permittee who receives a questionnaire should return the questionnaire to the division regardless of success. Returning the questionnaire helps the division evaluate population trends, determine harvest success and other valuable information.

R657-33-25. Taking Bear.

- (1)(a) A person who has obtained a bear permit, excluding limited entry archery bear permit, may use any legal weapon to take one bear during the season and within the hunt unit(s) specified on the permit.
- (b) Harvest objective permits may be purchased on a first-come, first-served basis as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.
- (2)(a) A person may not take or pursue a cub, or a sow accompanied by cubs.
- (b) Any bear, except a cub or a sow accompanied by cubs, may be taken during the prescribed seasons.
- (3) Limited entry permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.
- (4) Season dates, closed areas, harvest objective permit areas and limited entry permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.
- (5) Multi-season permits may be obtained by following the application procedures provided in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear. Multi-season permit holders may also hunt any open harvest objective season(s) on the unit the multi-season permit is valid.

R657-33-26. Bear Pursuit.

- (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection R657-33-3(1)(b) and Subsection (2), bear may be pursued only by persons who have obtained a bear pursuit permit.
- (b) The bear pursuit permit does not allow a person to:
 - (i) kill a bear; or
 - (ii) pursue bear for compensation.
- (c) A person may pursue bear for compensation only as provided in Subsection (2).
- (d) To obtain a bear pursuit permit, a person must possess a Utah hunting or combination license.
- (2)(a) A person may pursue bear on public lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:
 - (i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;
 - (ii) is a licensed hunting guide or outfitter under Title 58, Chapter 79, Hunting Guides and Outfitters Licensing Act and authorized to pursue bear;
 - (iii) possesses on their person the Utah hunting guide or outfitter license;
 - (iv) possesses on their person all permits and authorizations required by the applicable public lands managing authority to pursue bear for compensation; and
 - (v) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit.
- (b) A person may pursue bear on private lands for compensation, provided the dog handler:
 - (i) receives compensation from a client or customer to pursue bear;
 - (ii) is accompanied by the client or customer at all times during pursuit; and
 - (iii) possesses on their person written permission from all private landowners on whose property pursuit takes place.
- (c) A person who is an employee or agent of the Division or UDAF may pursue bear on public lands and private lands while acting within the scope of their employment.
- (3) A pursuit permit is not required to pursue bear if the individual satisfies the requirements in Subsection (2).
- (4)(a) A person pursuing bear for compensation under Subsections (2)(a) and (2)(b) shall comply with all other requirements and restrictions in statute, rule and the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board regulating the pursuit and take of bear.
- (b) Any violation of, or failure to comply with Title 23A, Wildlife Resources Code, this rule, or the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board may be grounds for suspension of the privilege to pursue bear for compensation under this subsection, as determined by a division hearing officer.

(5) Except as provided in Subsection (6), a bear pursuit permit authorizes the holder to pursue bear with dogs on any unit open to pursuing bear during the seasons and under the conditions prescribed by the Wildlife Board in guidebook.

(6) The Wildlife Board may establish or designate in the guidebook restricted pursuit units as determined necessary or convenient to better manage wildlife resources, including to protect wildlife, curtail over-utilization of resources, reduce conflict with other recreational activities, reduce conflict with private and public land activities, and protect wildlife habitat.

(a) Bear may not be pursued on a restricted pursuit unit unless the dog handler:

(i) possesses a pursuit permit issued for the particular restricted pursuit unit;

(ii) possesses or is accompanied by a person who possesses a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs, and the pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established by the respective permit; or

(iii) is engaged in pursuit for compensation as provided in Subsection (2), and pursuit occurs within the area and during the season established for the:

(A) paying client's limited entry or harvest objective bear permit allowing the use of dogs; or

(B) restricted pursuit unit.

(b) A pursuit permit issued for a restricted pursuit unit authorizes the holder to pursue bear on:

(i) the particular restricted pursuit unit for which the permit is issued; and

(ii) any other bear pursuit unit not designated as a restricted pursuit unit.

(c) Notwithstanding Subsection (6)(a)(i), when two or more dog owners are in the field pursuing bear together, only one must possess a restricted pursuit unit permit, provided the dog owners accompany the person possessing the restricted pursuit unit permit at all times.

(i) A dog handler pursuing bear on a restricted pursuit unit may leave the pursuit permit holder to retrieve dogs that separate from the pack, provided the dog handler;

(A) takes reasonable steps to keep the pack together before and during pursuit;

(B) separates from the pursuit permit holder exclusively to retrieve stray dogs and does not attempt to actively pursue bear during the retrieval process; and

(C) immediately releases any bear incidentally treed or held at bay by the stray dogs.

(ii) Maximum number of dogs in the field and pack sizes described in Section R657-33-12 remain applicable, even if there are multiple dog owners in the same hunting party.

(7) Pursuit permits may be obtained at division offices, through the internet and at license agents.

(a) The division may distribute pursuit permits for restricted pursuit units:

(i) through its offices, license agents, or online resources on a first-come, first-served basis; or

(ii) through a random drawing.

(8) A person may not:

(a) take or pursue a female bear with cubs;

(b) repeatedly pursue, chase, tree, corner or hold at bay the same bear during the same day; or

(c) individually or in combination with another person, use more than eight dogs in the field to pursue a bear during the summer pursuit season as established by the Wildlife Board in the guidebook.

(9) If eligible, a person who has obtained a bear pursuit permit may also obtain a limited entry or harvest objective bear permit.

(10) Season dates, closed areas and bear pursuit permit areas are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing bear.

R657-33-27. Limited Entry Bear Permit Application Information.

(1) Limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to Section R657-62-19.

R657-33-28. Waiting Period.

(1) Any person who obtains a limited entry permit may not apply for a permit in a division drawing for a period of two years.

(2) Individuals who obtain a conservation permit, sportsman permit, control permit, or harvest objective permit for bear are not subject to a waiting period.

R657-33-29. Harvest Objective General Information.

(1) Harvest objective permits are valid only for the open harvest objective management units and for the specified seasons published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) Harvest objective permits are not valid in a specified unit after the harvest objective has been met for that harvest objective unit.

R657-33-30. Harvest Objective Permit Sales.

(1) Harvest objective permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(2) Any bear permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase.

(3) A person must possess a valid hunting or combination license to obtain a harvest objective permit.

R657-33-31. Harvest Objective Unit Closures.

(1) Before hunting in a harvest objective unit, a hunter must visit the division's website to verify that the bear hunting unit is still open. The website will be updated each day by 12 noon. Updates become effective the following day 30 minutes before official sunrise.

(2) Harvest objective units are open to hunting until:

- (a) the bear harvest objective for that harvest objective unit is met and the division closes the area; or
- (b) the end of the hunting season as provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking bear.

(3) Upon closure of a harvest objective unit, a hunter may not take or pursue bear except as provided in Section R657-33-26.

R657-33-32. Harvest Objective Unit Reporting.

(1) Any person taking a bear with a harvest objective permit must report to the division, within 48 hours, where the bear was taken and have a permanent tag affixed pursuant to Section R657-33-17.

(2) Failure to accurately report the correct harvest objective unit where the bear was killed is unlawful.

(3) Any conviction for failure to accurately report, or aiding or assisting in the failure to accurately report as required in Subsection (1) shall be considered probable cause evidence of a knowing, intentional or reckless violation for purposes of permit suspension.

R657-33-33. Fees.

The permit fees and handling fees must be paid pursuant to Section R657-42-8(5).

R657-33-34. Drawings and Remaining Permits.

Remaining limited entry bear permits are issued pursuant to Rule R657-62.

R657-33-35. Bonus Points.

Bonus points are accrued and used pursuant to Sections R657-62-8 and R657-62-19.

R657-33-36. Refunds.

(1) Unsuccessful applicants will not be charged for a permit.

(2) The handling fees and hunting or combination license fees are nonrefundable.

R657-33-37. Duplicate License and Permit.

Whenever any unexpired license, permit, tag or certificate of registration is destroyed, lost or stolen, a person may obtain a duplicate in accordance with Rule R657-42.

KEY: wildlife, bear, game laws

Date of Last Change: March 11, 2025

Notice of Continuation: October 31, 2022

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-1-101; 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305;

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-39. Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Councils.

R657-39-1. Purpose and Authority.

This rule is established under the authority of Sections 23A-2-301, 23A-2-303, 23A-2-102, and 23A-2-304 to provide the standards and procedures for the operation of the Wildlife Board and regional advisory councils.

R657-39-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) "Anchor location" means the physical location from which:
 - (i) an electronic meeting originates; or
 - (ii) the participants are connected.
 - (b) "Electronic meeting" means a public meeting convened or conducted by means of a conference using electronic communications.

R657-39-3. Regional Advisory Council Memberships -- Terms of Office.

- (1)(a) There are created five regional advisory councils which shall consist of at least 12 members and not more than 15 members each from the wildlife region whose boundaries are established for administrative purposes by the division.
- (b) Regional advisory councils shall be established as follows:
 - (i) two members who represent agriculture;
 - (ii) two members who represent sportsman;
 - (iii) two members who represent nonconsumptive wildlife;
 - (iv) one member who represents locally elected public officials;
 - (v) one member who represents the U.S. Forest Service;
 - (vi) one member who represents the Bureau of Land Management;
 - (vii) one member who represents Native Americans where appropriate; and
 - (viii) two members of the public at large who represent the interests of the region.
- (c) Members of the regional advisory councils must comply with the license requirements in Section 23A-2-303(2)(b).
- (d) The executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, shall appoint additional members to the councils, up to a total of 15 per region, if deemed necessary to provide adequate representation of local interests and needs.
- ~~(e)~~ Members of the councils shall serve a term of four years, except members may be appointed for a term of two years to ensure that the terms of office are staggered.
- ~~(f)~~ Members may serve no more than two terms, except:
 - (i) members representing Native Americans may serve unlimited terms;
 - (ii) members filling a vacancy under Subsection (3) for two years or less will not be credited with having served a term; and
 - (iii) members who have served two terms may be eligible to serve an additional two terms after four years absence from regional advisory council membership.
- ~~(g)~~ Members' terms expire on July 1 of the final year in the appointed term.
- (2) The executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, may remove members of the councils from office for cause, but may not do so without a public hearing if requested by the member.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs, the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources, shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term from a list of nominees submitted by the respective interest group, agency, or the public at large.
- (4)(a) Each council shall appoint:
 - (i) a chair to conduct meetings and present council recommendations to the Wildlife Board; and
 - (ii) a vice chair to conduct meetings in the absence of the chair.
- (b) The chair and vice chair shall serve for a two year term of office, the regional advisory council may re-appoint the chair and vice chair to serve a second two year term.
 - (i) neither the chair nor the vice chair may serve more than two term.
- (5) Regional supervisors of the division shall serve as executive secretary to the councils and shall provide administrative support.
- (6) Each new member shall attend an orientation course provided by the division to assist them in the performance of the duties of their office.
- (7) Any member who fails to attend two consecutive, previously scheduled meetings without contacting the chair shall be considered to have resigned and shall be replaced as provided in this section.

R657-39-4. Regional Advisory Council Meetings.

- (1) Meeting dates and times may be proposed by the Division of Wildlife Resources, but shall be determined by the chair upon at least ten days notice or upon shorter notice in emergency situations.

(2) Meeting locations may be proposed by the Division of Wildlife Resources, but shall be determined by the chair and must be held within the council's regional boundary.

(3) Meetings should be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

(4)(a) Each council shall provide not less than 24 hours' public notice of the agenda, date, time, and place of each of its meetings.

(b) Public notice is satisfied by:

(i) posting written notice at the regional division office; and

(ii) providing notice to at least one newspaper of general circulation within the geographic jurisdiction of the council, or to a local media correspondent.

(c) When because of unforeseen circumstances it is necessary for a council to consider matters of an emergency or urgent nature, the notice requirements in this section may be disregarded and the best notice practicable given. No such meeting shall be held unless an attempt has been made to notify all of its members and a majority votes in the affirmative to hold the meeting.

(5) No formal decisions or recommendations may be made at any meeting unless there is a quorum present consisting of a simple majority of the membership of the council.

(6) Written minutes shall be kept of all council meetings pursuant to Section 52-4-7. Such minutes shall include:

(a) the date, time and place of the meeting;

(b) the names of members present and absent;

(c) the substance of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided, and a record, by individual member, of votes taken;

(d) the names of all citizens who appeared and the substance in brief of their testimony;

(e) any other information that any member requests be entered into the minutes.

(7)(a) All council meetings shall be open to the public except that a council may hold a closed meeting as authorized in Utah Code Sections 52-4-4 and 52-4-5.

(b) A record of all closed meetings shall be kept and maintained consistent with Utah Code Section 52-4-7.5.

R657-39-5. Regional Advisory Council Recommendations.

(1) Each council shall:

(a) hear broad input, including recommendations, biological data, and information regarding the effects of wildlife;

(b) gather information from staff, the public, and government agencies; and

(c) make recommendations to the Wildlife Board in an advisory capacity.

(2) The chair of each council or his or her designee shall submit a written recommendation to the Wildlife Board and present its recommendations orally to the Wildlife Board during an open public meeting.

(3) Councils may not make formal recommendations to the Wildlife Board concerning the internal policies and procedures of the division, personnel matters, or expenditure of the division's budget.

R657-39-6. Electronic Meetings.

(1) Utah Code Section 52-4-207 authorizes a public body to convene or conduct an electronic meeting provided written procedures are established for such meetings. This rule establishes procedures for conducting Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council meetings by electronic means.

(2) The following provisions govern any meeting at which one or more Wildlife Board or Regional Advisory Council members appear telephonically or electronically pursuant to Section 52-4-207:

(a) If one or more board or council members participate in a public meeting electronically or telephonically, public notices of the meeting shall specify:

(i) the platform that the public can use to submit public comments electronically and attend the meeting remotely by electronic means;

(ii) the anchor location where interested persons and the public may attend, monitor, and participate in the open portions of the meeting;

(iii) the meeting agenda; and

(iv) the date and time of the meeting.

(b) Written or electronic notice of the meeting and the agenda shall be posted or provided no less than 24 hours prior to the meeting:

(i) at the anchor location;

(ii) on the Utah Public Notice Website; and

(iii) to at least one newspaper of general circulation within the state or to a local media correspondent.

(c) Notice of the possibility of an electronic meeting shall be given to board or council members at least 24 hours before the meeting. In addition, the notice shall describe how a member may participate in the meeting electronically or telephonically.

(d) When notice is given of the possibility of a board or council member appearing electronically or telephonically, any member may do so and shall be counted as present for purposes of a quorum and may fully participate and vote on any matter.

(i) In addition to identifying board or council members physically present at the meeting, at the commencement of the meeting, or at such time as any board or council member initially appears electronically or telephonically, the chair should identify for the record all those who are appearing telephonically or electronically.

(ii) Votes by board or council members who are not at the physical location of the meeting shall be confirmed by the chair.

(e) The anchor location, unless otherwise designated in the notice, shall be at the offices of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

(i) The anchor location is the physical location from which the electronic meeting originates or from which the participants are connected.

(ii) The anchor location shall have space and facilities so that interested persons and the public may attend, monitor, and participate in the open portions of the meeting.

R657-39-7. Emergency Meetings.

(1) There are times when, due to the necessity of considering matters of an emergency or urgent nature, the public notice provisions of Subsections 52-4-202(1) cannot be met. Pursuant to Subsection 52-4-202(5), the notice requirements in Subsection 52-4-202(1) may be disregarded when unforeseen circumstances require the Wildlife Board or Regional Advisory Councils to meet and consider matters of an emergency or urgent nature.

(2) The following procedure shall govern any emergency meeting:

(a) No emergency meeting shall be held unless an attempt has been made to notify all board or council members of the proposed meeting and a majority of the convened members vote in the affirmative to hold such an emergency meeting.

(b) Public notice of the emergency meeting shall be provided as soon as practicable and shall include at a minimum the following:

(i) Posting of the date, time, and place of the meeting and the topics to be considered:

(A) at the offices of the division;

(B) on the division's web page; and

(C) at the location where the emergency meeting will be held.

(ii) If members of the board or council appear electronically or telephonically, notice shall comply with the requirements of Subsection R657-39-6(2) to the extent practicable.

(c) In convening the meeting and voting in the affirmative to hold such an emergency meeting, the board or council shall affirmatively state and find what unforeseen circumstances have rendered it necessary to hold an emergency meeting to consider matters of an emergency or urgent nature such that the ordinary public notice of meetings provisions of Section 52-4-202 could not be followed.

KEY: terms of office, public meetings, regional advisory councils

Date of Last Change: October 1, 2023

Notice of Continuation: November 10, 2020

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-303 (7); 23A-2-304