

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

August 21, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtube.com/live/ycDc9mbAbLc>

Thursday, August 21, 2025 – 9:00 am

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|--|----------------------|
| 1. Swearing in of New Board Members
– Riley Peck, Director | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Agenda
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Approval of Minutes
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 4. Old Business/Action Log
– Paula Richmond, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 5. DWR Update
– Riley Peck, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 6. Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57 Surrenders and Variances
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62 Sportsman Draw
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Recommended changes R657-73 Tagging Requirements
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. CWMU – Additional Cow Permits
– Darren DeBlois, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Additional Drought Permits – Bison – Henry Mountains
– Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator | ACTION |

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 – 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

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

June 12, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center

1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

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

AGENDA

Thursday June 12, 2025, 9:00 am

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

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

Wildlife Board Motions

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 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

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 – 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 placed on 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
June 12, 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 Gary Nielson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.

3) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments – Banking Hours (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments for banking hours as presented by the Division.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

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

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passed with 3 in favor, an 2 recusals (Kent Johnson and Gary Nielson).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule – R657-72 as presented, with the revised language provided by the Division.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMUs with Private Land Variance requests as presented by the Division, with the caveat that as landowners apply for this program going forward, they understand that there is another option available to them.

- 7) Changes to R657-28, WMA Exemptions from License Requirement (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the changes to Rule R657-28, WMA Exemptions from License Requirements as presented by the Division, with the inclusion of an exemption for Federal Employees accessing WMAs while conducting their official work duties.

- 8) Sage-grouse Translocation (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed 4 in favor, with Bret Selman excused.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Sage-grouse translocation as presented by the Division.

- 9) Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments –R657-4 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed 4 in favor, with Bret Selman excused.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments –R657-4 as presented by the Division.

- 10) Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding as presented by the Division.

- 11) Election of Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman (**Action**)

- 12) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 12, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Attendance

Wildlife Board

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

RAC Chairs

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

Division Personnel

Mike Canning	Mike Christensen	Bryan Christensen	Brandon Baron
Justin Shannon	Staci Coons	Jason Vernon	Chelsea Duke
Ashley Green	Paige Wiren	Darren DeBloois	Adam Kavalunas
Kenny Johnson	Kyle Maynard	Mark Martinez	Brandon Behling
Blair Stringham	Devri Tanner	Eric Edgley	Chad Wilson
Kevin Bunnell	Dax Mangus	Ginger Stout	Next to Darren
Covy Jones	Seth Magers	Lindy Varney	Chris Wood
Chad Bettridge	Paul Gedge	Sydney Lamb	Faith Jolley
			Miles Hanberg

Public Present

Troy Justensen
Angie Wonnacott

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 12, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvQgqWjiicw&t=1241s>

- 00:05:01** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, read the public meeting statement, and asked the board members to introduce themselves.
- 00:07:39** **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.
- 00:08:16** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:08:57** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Vice-chairman Gary Nielson gave status updates on Action Log items and noted when those items would be brought before the Board.
- 00:11:00** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director Riley Peck highlighted recent Division success stories, gave general section updates, recognized and thanked the outgoing board members, and noted that the period for the public to comment on new board members was open.
Chairman Dearth mentioned watching fish being stocked at Strawberry Reservoir, and shared that attending the annual summer Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference was a valuable experience. He also mentioned that Utah, this year's conference host, did an excellent job of organizing the week-long event.
- 00:22:46** **5) Legislative Statue Updates (Informational)**
Assistant Attorney General Kyle Maynard gave updates on rule changes due to H.B. 309 and H.B. 244. He stated that he also added language to R657-39 about RAC members needing to have a hunting, fishing or combo license for at least three out of the last five years leading to their appointment in order to serve on a RAC.
- 00:25:04** **Board Questions**
There were no questions from the Board.
- 00:25:27** **6) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (Action)**
Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator Bryan Christensen noted his change of job

assignment within the Division, and opened the floor for questions.

00:26:22 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

00:26:53 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

00:27:35 RAC Summaries

All RACs unanimously passed the rule amendments.

00:28:32 Board Discussion

The Board voiced support for the amendments and thanked the Division for their work on this agenda item.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments for banking hours as presented by the Division.

00:29:48 7) Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments – R657-41 (Action)

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones reviewed the proposed changes.

00:30:29 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.

00:30:45 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

00:31:14 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the amendments unanimously.

00:31:58 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

00:34:13 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

00:34:17 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board thanked the Division for the proposed changes

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Program Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

00:35:52 8) Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule Amendments – R657-72 (Action)

Law Enforcement Major Chad Bettridge asked Assistant Attorney General Kyle Maynard to explain the context of the proposed rule amendments.

00:40:56 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked about the possibility of the Legislature changing the bill during the upcoming 2025 legislative interim. The Board asked how rule changes and code might be discussed, and in particular if impacted parties might be included in discussions. The Board also commented on public feedback on the fee increase and the perception of what the hunts will be like after the rule changes, and the restriction on the number of guides and spotters on the landscape.

Chad highlighted the changes to the rule.

The Board asked if the Division would consider the element of sponsorship, like what DOPL required, in the process of obtaining an outfitters or guides certificate of registration, and asked about the specific rule requirement that “serious injury” be reported to law enforcement. Kent Johnson disclosed that he is a licensed guide who is discussing the rule change. The Board asked if the rule changes included guides being vouched for, like what was in place under the DOPL licensing process.

The Board asked if the code definition of “serious injury” could be added to the rule. The Board asked for confirmation that the Division of Law Enforcement will respond to reported violations.

00:57:01 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

00:57:42 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the rule amendments, with various stipulations.

01:02:17 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:05:03 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth gave a summary of all the RAC motions.

01:05:35 Board Discussion/Questions

The Board asked if it would be appropriate to pass along to legislators the additional public concerns that were voiced during this meeting.

Legislative Liaison Justin Shannon told the Board what upcoming conversations the Division has schedule with state legislative representatives.

The Board voiced public feedback about the new fee amount being assessed on guides who guide only on a couple hunts a year, and suggested putting on the Action Log the request to discuss a graduated fee schedule.

The Board argued that with the new law’s restriction on how many helpers can be on

a guided hunt that those who hire a guide might have less help than hunters who do not hire a guide.

The RAC asked if the Wildlife Board can adjust the proposed fee amount.

Chairman Dearth noted that this rule was put forth by the state legislature.

The Board thanked the Division for their work making the rule amendments, and voiced support for a graduated fee schedule.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passed, 3 in favor, and 2 recusals (Kent Johnson and Gary Nielson).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Outfitters, Guides and Spotters Rule –R657-72 as presented, with the revised language provided by the Division.

01:19:30 9) CWMUs with Public Land Variance Requests (Action)

Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator Chad Wilson gave updates based on RAC meetings feedback.

01:20:59 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if one of the CWMUs is an antelope CWMU.

01:21:25 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:22:02 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the rule amendments, with various stipulations and dissent.

01:24:50 Public Comments

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

01:24:52 Board Discussion/Questions

Vice-chairman Nielson commented on the vetting process he experienced as a former member of the CWMU Advisory Board, and noted that in the current variance request process specialists form suggestions that are then passed on to the Division, while there also are some people who are against public land in a CWMU as a general rule. The Board voiced support for enforceable definable boundaries.

The Board asked if the public could still hunt on public land in a CWMU for species other than the singular different species for which permits on that CWMU are issued. In particular, could the public hunt, for example, deer and elk on the proposed included public land in the TL Bar Ranch variance request, a CWMU that offers only pronghorn hunts. Chairman Dearth stated that the public needs to understand this.

The Board asked about the hypothetical situation of a landowner drawing a landowner permit, and hunting alongside the public who would be hunting the public ground. Chairman Dearth asked a Northern Region board member how he

was considering voting on this agenda item.

The Board commented that they were being asked to make decisions on land that they have never seen nor have time to see, and that it would seem reasonable to follow the Division's researched recommendations. This was followed by another board member's comment that in the past there have been variance recommendations that were passed that probably should not have, so the vetting process is important.

Chairman Dearth noted that every time a CWMU that has public land in it applies for a new certificate of registration, their application must be scrutinized and approved again. He asked the Division if the CWMU Advisory Committee approved of the TL Bar Ranch variance request.

The Board voiced appreciation for the CWMU Advisory Committee's opinions, and noted that when the CWMU program started it was generous to landowners, but as the changes come about, such as the corner crossing law being passed, things will impact program regulation.

The Board then mentioned how valuable the CWMU program is to ranchers, and made the conjecture that the program currently is helping keep production agriculture alive in Utah.

Chairman Dearth mentioned that the more landowners learn about landowner permits they might prefer that hunting option.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMUs with Public Land Variance requests as presented by the Division, with the caveat that, as landowners apply for this program going forward, they understand that there is another option available to them.

01:40:52 10) Changes to R657-28 WMA Exemptions from License Requirements (Action)

Wildlife Lands Coordinator Chelsea Duke summarized the Board's role in implementing and upholding H.B. 309, clarified the Board's authority in relation to the new law, and noted what exemption request was brought up in the RAC tour.

01:43:02 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if federal employees would need permission from the Division to access WMAs, or if it would be written in the rule that federal employees would be exempt from the licensing requirement.

01:45:41 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:46:43 RAC Recommendations

All RACs passed the rule amendments, with one stipulation.

01:47:53 Board Discussion/Questions

Chairman Dearth commented on public feedback from public who were resistant to the idea of having to purchase a hunting or fishing license because they do not believe in hunting or fishing, and noted that the WMAs are supported by license sales.

The Board commented that there might be misunderstanding from the public about what the function of WMAs is, and suggested that the public should understand that the state owns that land which is managed by the Division for the benefit of wildlife.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the changes to Rule R657-28, WMA Exemptions from License Requirements as presented by the Division, with the inclusion of an exemption for Federal Employees accessing WMAs while conducting their official work duties.

01:53:47 11. Sage-grouse translocation

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones presented this agenda item on behalf of Upland Game Coordinator Heather Talley who commented via electronic meeting connection, and he reviewed the proposed translocation plan.

01:55:38 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked what the listing status of sage-grouse is.

01:57:16 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

01:57:35 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the proposed sage-grouse translocations.

01:58:24 Board Discussion/Questions

The Board congratulated the Division on their hard work in taking care of this critical species and keeping it from being federally listed.

Chairman Dearth shared that he took grandsons to participate in a sage-grouse lek.

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed 4 in favor, with Bret Selman excused.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Sage-grouse translocation as presented by the Division.

02:00:06 12. Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones presented this agenda item on behalf of Upland Game Coordinator Heather Talley who commented via electronic meeting connection, and he reviewed the amendments.

02:02:02 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if there has been incidents of disease in the pen-reared birds.

02:03:57 Public Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comments received online.

02:04:28 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the amendments.

02:05:03 Board Discussion/Questions

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Possession and Release of Pen-reared Game Birds Rule Amendments –R657-4 as presented by the Division.

02:06:18 13. Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones explained the context of this agenda item.

02:10:49 Board/RAC Questions

A RAC chair asked if deer were included in the alternating season days.

02:11:57 Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

02:13:31 Board Discussion

The Board thanked the Division for their work on the MOU and for acting in the public's interest.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Antelope Island Memorandum of Understanding as presented by the Division

02:15:13 14. Election of Board Chairman and Vice-chairman (Action)

The Board unanimously voted in Gary Nielson as the new Wildlife Board Chairman, and voted by paper ballot to make Paula Richmond the new Wildlife Board Vice-chair.

02:18:46 15. Other Business

Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus brought to the Board's attention a discrepancy in the number of doe pronghorn permits in the Vernal Ouray Valley hunting unit.

02:21:01 Meeting adjourned

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meetings
Summary of Motions**

- 1) Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57 (**Action**)
-Surrenders and Variances

CR, SR, SER, NER:

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

NR: MOTION: I move we accept Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57,
Surrenders and Variances as presented, except change variance time frame
to 60 days.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

- 2) Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62 (**Action**)
-Sportsman draw and group applications

CR, NR, SER, NER:

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62,
Sportsman draw and group applications as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR,

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62,
Sportsman draw and group applications as presented.

VOTE: 7 in favor with 1 recusal

- 3) Recommended changes R657-73 (**Action**)
- Tagging Requirements

CR, NR, SR, NER:

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62,
Sportsman draw and group applications as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SER,

MOTION: To approve as presented with the addition that the photographs on e-
tagging be considered as proof of sex, if paper tagging is considered, the current
rule still applies.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

RAC AGENDA July 2025

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair Brock McMillan | ACTION |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair Brock McMillan | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor Ron Nielsen (acting) | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57
- Surrenders and Variances
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. | Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62
- Sportsman draw and group applications
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. | Recommended changes R657-73
- Tagging Requirements
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |

Central Region RAC Meeting
Summary of Motions
July 29, 2025
Springville, Utah

1) Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of May 13, 2025 RAC Meeting Minutes

The following motion was made by Brock McMillan and passed unanimously.

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

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update

This was an informational item and no motions were made.

4) Regional Update

This was an informational item and no motions were made.

5) Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57

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

MOTION: To approve the changes as presented.

6) Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62

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

MOTION: To approve the changes as presented.

7) Recommended changes R657-73

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Drew Eline and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the proposal as presented.

Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance
July 29, 2025
Springville, Utah

RAC Members

Attending

Brock McMillan
Drew Eline
Eric Reid
John Ziegler (online)
Tyson Skeen
Bryce Castagnetto
Josh Greenhalgh
Braden Sheppard
Kellen Hyer (online)
Josh Kays
Amos Murphy (online)
Jim Shuler

Absent

Steve Lund (absent)

Wildlife Board

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

DWR Personnel

Riley Peck
Michael Packer
Ron Nielsen
Justin Shannon
Jody Anderson
Michael Christensen (online)
Preston Mickelson
Lindy Varney
Bailee Prestwich

Total members of the public in attendance: 4

Central Region RAC Meeting

July 29, 2025

Springville, Utah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gALMTYJIF2I&t=2s>

06:00:09	RAC Chair Brock McMillan called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel were present on the broadcast. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations and public comments will be taken during the meeting.
06:07:28	<p>1/2) Approval of Agenda & Past Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Brock McMillan, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passes unanimously</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</p>
06:08:08	<p>4) DWR Regional Update (Informational)</p> <p>Director Riley Peck welcomed all new RAC members and expressed appreciation towards all new members. Time Stamp - 06:04:59</p> <p>Ron Nielsen updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p> <p>Wildlife Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Preseason pronghorn & elk classification is ongoing through August.- Trail cameras are set for monitoring chukar populations.- Trapping bears on the Nebo and Manti for ongoing research.- Wildlife Conservation has been working with bats, hummingbirds and dark kangaroo mice this summer.- More public bat nights are coming up in August as well. <p>Aquatics Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sportsfish Section- Recent stocking of remote Manti-Lasal waters (Brook Trout)- Utah Lake trap nets (population monitoring)- CRO staff heavily involved in Fall Creek cutthroat restoration efforts (1st week in August).- September stocking on fingerling Bonneville cutthroat trout.- Summer Fishing- Kokanee anglers doing well at both Jordanelle and Strawberry Reservoir (some starting to turn pink).- Rainbow catch rates near record highs at Strawberry (good fishing should continue).- Recent 24lb Channel catfish caught at Utah Lake.- Native Species Management- Pilot project testing baited traps to remove carp on Utah Lake.- Outreach partnerships to protect Boreal toads (and their habitat) at Silver Lake (Brighton). <p>Habitat Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Completed 515 acres of cut and pile conifer thinning and aspen regeneration for mule deer in Twelve Mile Canyon.- flew in and installed 3 guzzlers on the San Pitch Mountains for mule deer.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sprayed 484 acres of myrtle spurge to improve mule deer winter range. Coordinated a weed pull day with RMEF as well. <p>Outreach Section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two public bat night events. - Upland Game Hunting Seminar with wildlife biologist Jason Robinson at the DWR Central Region Office, Aug 28. - New hunting walk-in access property coming online in Sanpete County, providing corridor access to Manti Meadow WMA. - Dedicated Hunter volunteer busy season. Working with partners and DWR personnel to meet project demand. - Supporting DWR sections with field work, obtaining content to help highlight our efforts on social media. <p>Law Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many officers attended the NAWEOA conference held in Pennsylvania - Officer Anderson responded to a call about an individual that got bit by a coyote. - It has been a very busy fire season with all the officers working shifts to close roads to the public around the fire locations.
06:11:45	<p>5) Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57</p> <p>Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator presented to the board.</p>
06:14:10	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked why the DWR allows for those who have a medical related reason for surrendering up to 90 days to provide documentation. The RAC also requested clarification on the differences between a variance medical surrender and a standard medical surrender. The RAC asked for the statistics of how many tags overall each year are surrendered and of that total, how many were specifically medical related. The RAC clarified what types of tags are eligible for a variance and what options hunters have should they need to request a variance. The RAC asked for the DWR's understanding of fraud that occurs and how these issues are handled.</p>
06:19:01	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None in person.
06:19:13	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Ron Nielsen summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - William Austin Carter - Provided feedback on the mule deer population in the Book Cliffs - Roadless area and expressed his feeling towards the "poor management" of the population on his property.
06:26:29	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed the challenges surrounding surrenders, variances and documentation being provided by MD's, DO's or PA's and what types of legal obligations/consequences come with their signatures on such forms. The RAC asked if the Division has ever considered creating a "form" that hunters can take into their</p>

	doctors offices to be filled out. Possibility of requiring a signed HIPPA waiver from the hunter as well so the Division can contact offices to verify these documents are truthful.
06:29:45	<p>Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Jim Shuler and seconded by John Ziegler. This was passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the changes as presented.</p>
06:30:23	<p>3) Update on the past board meeting (Informational)</p> <p>Brock McMillan provided a brief update on the past board meeting.</p>
06:32:19	<p>6) Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62</p> <p>Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator presented to the board.</p>
06:35:08	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>None.</p>
06:35:38	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>- None</p>
06:35:39	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Ron Nielsen summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kyle Coons - My only concern with the Sportsman's permit change, would be if you drew a sportsmen's elk permit, would you be ineligible to put in for an elk point? - Lindy Varney - This rule would make it so you could not draw elk that same year, however it would make it so you could put in for a point on that species. - Kyle Coons - My concern is that now you are not only drawing a tag, but you are also going to have the chance to receive an additional tag for the same species later.
06:37:50	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed the pros and cons of hunters who have drawn a sportsman's tag not having the option to put in for that same species in the draw. There were concerns that individuals who miss out on putting in for a point on a once in a lifetime species could make the difference of years to actually draw out.</p>

06:40:25	<p>Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62</p> <p>MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Eric Reid. This was passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the changes as presented.</p>
06:40:50	<p>7) Recommended changes R657-73</p> <p>Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator presented to the board.</p>
06:44:19	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked if the person who harvests the animal has to use their own cell phone to E-Tag the animal under the new proposed changes. RAC members asked what kind of concerns law enforcement has surrounding the potential risk of poaching and if they theorize the added option for E-Tagging making this even easier to do. The RAC asked how logistics of the E-Tagging process will work. They also clarified that those who were E-Tagging and providing GPS location of harvest will not have the information shared publicly. It will all stay within a secured server managed by the DWR.</p>
06:47:24	<p>TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES.</p>
06:53:47	<p>RAC Questions Resumed...</p> <p>The RAC brought up many scenarios where they felt a person could choose to both E-Tag an animal as well as punch their physical game tag. However the consensus is that hunters have similar opportunities at this moment to do such. Regardless of E-Tag options being available or not, people still have the ability to receive a duplicate tag and harvest two species with the obvious risk of law enforcement encounter on the mountain. The RAC asked for more details on the types of photos that will be required when harvesting a Big Game animal. These photos will be saved in the app regardless of signal and then be uploaded with the harvest survey when it reaches signal later. These photos will also help biologists accurately collect data on what size of bulls/bucks are being harvested on the landscape. The RAC also brought up the idea of offering when someone draws a tag, to choose either a physical tag or the E-Tagging option. The RAC asked if there was any financial gain for the Division to switch from physically printing licenses to E-Tagging. The RAC asked how a hunter would respond to the E-Tagging process in a situation where they have taken a shot but couldn't locate the animal.</p>
07:06:27	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kyle Coons - As far as location and photos, is that put in for data for the biologists? - Yes it is. - Kaitlyn Curry (Back Country Hunters and Anglers) - Is there a concern if someone were to both E-Tag and mark their tag at the same time? - Lindy Varney - Yes no concerns on that however it is not necessary.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kaitlyn Curry - Will transport rules change?- Lindy Varney - No they will not.
07:07:57	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Ron Nielsen summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kaitlyn Curry (Back Country Hunters and Anglers) - We are really excited about the E-Tagging options. We love the location as well as biologists' data coming in real time. We are in support of this.- Kyle Coons - Being someone who has driven off and forgot my tag at home I really like this idea. I have some concerns about the GPS data, I would like to see language added that protects this information from the public.
07:10:44	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed their overall support around the E-Tagging process and expressed how they believe the DWR has dedicated quite a lot of time and efforts towards ensuring this is a well utilized tool for biologists and hunters. The RAC agreed with the public comments on the potential for poaching to occur but commended that if a person wanted to violate the law they could do that regardless of the E-Tagging opportunity.</p>
07:13:47	<p>Recommended changes R657-73</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTION</p> <p>The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Drew Eline This was passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the proposal as presented.</p>
07:14:24	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

July 30, 2025

The meeting will stream live at https://youtube.com/live/3xRGm_rm4TY

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. Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57
- Surrenders and Variances **ACTION**
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
6. Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62
- Sportsman draw and group applications **ACTION**
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
7. Recommended changes R657-73
- Tagging Requirements **ACTION**
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

Regional Presentations Only

CR RAC – July 29th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/gALMTYJ1F2Ig>

SER RAC – August 6th, 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/MFmU0Km72fA>

NR RAC – July 30th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/3xRGm_rm4TY

NER RAC – August 7th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/ksyX6RvbH5g>

SR RAC – August 5th, 6:00 PM
DNR Cedar City Complex
646 N. Main St. Cedar City
<https://youtube.com/live/3yg-4JZdcgA>

Board Meeting – August 21st, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington
<https://youtube.com/live/ycDc9mbAbLc>

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

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

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

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

2) **Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57 (Action)**
 -Surrenders and Variances

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

MOTION: I move we accept Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57, Surrenders and Variances as presented, except change variance time frame to 60 days.

3) **Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62 (Action)**
 -Sportsman draw and group applications

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62, Sportsman draw and group applications as presented.

4) **Recommended changes R657-73 (Action)**
 - Tagging Requirements

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-73 as presented.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

July 30, 2025

Attendance

RAC Members

Brad Buchanan – Chair
Blair Stringham- Exec. Sec
Ryan Brown- Vice Chair

James Carlson
Avery Cook
Robert Dale
Darren Parry
Wyatt Selman

Steve Sorensen
Hunter Stallings
Ross Worthington
Brandon Zundel

Board Member

Justin Oliver
Kent Johnson
Paula Richmond

RAC Excused

Jaimi Butler
Casey Snider
Garrett Larsen
Jessica Wade

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson
Lindy Varney
David Beveridge
Jim Christensen

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

July 30, 2025

Minutes

- 00:04:57** 1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.
- 00:08:47** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by James Carlson and passed unanimous.
- MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**
- 00:09:41** 3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan, RAC Chair**
Links on website to view.
- 00:12:06** 4) **Regional Update – Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**

Blair Stringham updated the RAC on regional activities.
- 00:21:45** 5) **Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-5 (Action)**
- Surrenders and Variances

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

Lindy Varney summarized the presentation for the RAC.
- 00:24:42** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Medical variances. Number of days for medical surrenders. Percentage of surrenders that are medical related. Number of variances.

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

00:28:02 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

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

Public Comment

No comments from the public.

RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Concern with the variance. The variance isn't just for the hunter. Depending on the circumstances. 120 days can be too long, and 30 days can be short. Hate to see someone miss out on an opportunity. Maybe 60 days. Would like to know the percentage who do a variance within the first 30 days.

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

MOTION: I move we accept Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57, Surrenders and Variances as presented, except change variance time frame to 60 days.

00:34:31 6) Recommend changes - R657-41 & R657-62 (Action)

- Sportsman draw and group applications

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

Lindy Varney summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:37:47 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Bonus points. Reason for the change. Limited Entry and the expo. Draw order of the permits. Why aren't bear and turkey drawn first?

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

00:42:44 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

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

Public Comment

Mike Henderson- Gave up hunting because the division doesn't listen. Time to make a change. Landowner/public permit splits. Feels the way tag allocations is criminal. 3 point or better hunt areas were implemented and then taken away. Questions why there are no deer? Division needs to manage for money or manage for wildlife. Cut deer tags and then double the price. He came to the RAC meeting because KSL posted the division was looking for public input. Nobody ever listens.

Steve Sorensen asked Mr. Henderson if the deer tags were cut in half, how many does and fawns would that produce? It wouldn't grow the deer herd. It would grow the buck herd. The does are getting bred.

Brad Buchanan reminded Mr. Henderson that we were discussing items on the agenda.

Ross Worthington commented that Mr. Henderson may be referring to the mule deer meeting that will be held on July 31 in Willard. Ross also reiterated the RAC makes recommendations not decisions. The Wildlife Board makes the decisions. He encouraged Mr. Henderson to attend the mule deer meetings, RAC and Wildlife Board meetings.

00:50:46 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended Changes R657-41 & R657-62, Sportsman draw and group applications as presented.

00:51:32 7) Recommended changes - R657-73 (Action)
- Tagging Requirements

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

Lindy Varney summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:54:45 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Location and pictures of the animal harvested. Rational behind taking photos. E-tags and harvest surveys. Data and GRAMA requests. Limitations to who has access to the data. The required photos for antlerless being the same as antlered animals. E-tags and paper tags. E-tags and cell service. Similar to coyote bounty app.

Public Questions

No questions from the public.

01:03:38 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Blair Stringham, Regional Supervisor

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

Public Comment

Adam Denison- Utah Backcountry Hunters and Anglers – There is a value in having an e-tag. UBHA supports this proposal. Need public awareness of getting harvest code in

the field and to remind the hunter to open the app once they get back into service, so their survey can be submitted.

Kent Singleton- Private property in Morgan experiencing the threat of eminent domain and trespassing. Walk-In Access contract being terminated immediately upon the change of ownership per Utah Administrative Rule. He was directed to install no trespassing signs, yet the DWR and Walk- In Access program continue to maintain old and new fishing signage. He said there are thousands of people on his property every day without his permission and that he's not being compensated.

Deputy Chalmers with the Morgan County Sheriff's Department, issued his wife a citation on July 20, 2023 for criminal trespass when she was servicing their security camera. He requested mediation to resolve the issues. He stated mediation was refused. He also states the division refuses to pull signage and encourages the public to enter his property on false pretenses. He is respectfully submitting this as a GRAMA request to the Northern Region RAC.

Wants all outdated fishing signs removed, publicly clarifying his parcel is no longer enrolled in the Walk-In Access program and to reconsider mediation given the division's statutory obligation.

He can provide letters showing the termination of his property in the Walk-In-Access Program, change of ownership transfer records and boundary surveys.

Blair Stringham said he appreciated his comments, and he could give the letters to him or Jodie Anderson and we would get them to the appropriate person.

Austin Carter-(via telephone) E-tagging requirements. Has already witnessed a problem with tagging. Waste and want of multiple bull elk. Not sure if e-tagging will make it better or worse. Commented on bison damage and how the DWR threatened him with an over- the- counter hunt that would take place on his private property. He can't get any compensation or any help. He has been to the capitol. He has dealt with legislators, the director of DNR and is being attacked on these issues. We have a lot more poaching and waste of wildlife situations. Continued with a scenario where he had witnessed the use of helicopters. (Some of his conversation was inaudible.)

01:13:55

RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Assurance the data can't be GRAMA'd. Concern in the future when harvest reporting is made mandatory. Concerns about having to take pictures. Think it is a great option. Make sure a paper tag is still an option. Poachers are going to poach. Pictures can help identify an animal. Where does the division see this going in the future? App allowing notification if a hunter is out of service so he/she can complete the survey. Location is

worse than the photos. Unintended consequences. Pros and cons to both paper and e-tagging.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Recommended changes R657-73, Tagging Requirements as presented.

01:32:55 Meeting Adjourned. Steve Sorensen

SOUTHERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 05, 2025 6:00 P.M.

**DNR CEDAR CITY COMPLEX
646 N. MAIN STREET, CEDAR CITY**

RAC Members

Attending

Austin Atkinson
Bryant Johnson
Brooklyn Cox
Chris Cannon
Trevor Barnson
Chad Utle
Gary Barney
Chuck Chamberlain
Russell Gardner

Absent

Rachel Bolus
Bart Battista
Mike Grant
Travis Duran

Wildlife Board

Gary Nielson, Kent Johnson (virtual)
Paula Richmond (in person)

DWR Personnel

Teresa Griffin	Brandon White
Adam Kavalunas	Lindy Varney

Public invited to join online: <https://youtube.com/live/3yg-4JZdcgA>

06:06:49	1) Chairman Austin Atkinson called the meeting to order. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll call of RAC members.• 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.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Microphones and cameras are in the room and pick up sound. Reminded those in attendance that side conversations will most likely be heard on YouTube. • Introduce new RAC members
06:11:05	2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action) The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Bryant Johnson. MOTION: I move that we approved the Agenda and Minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.
06:13:00	3) Wildlife Board Meeting update: (Informational) - Chairman Austin Atkinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 12, 2025. • DH rule amendments to allow for banking of hours during the same year program is joined, passed unanimously. • Conservation program rules, passed unanimously. • Outfitters guides spotter amendments, passed unanimously, 3 in favor and 2 recuse. Went into effect 7/1/2025. • CWMU passed unanimously. • WMA exemptions from license requirements for federal employees in the act of work duties, passed unanimously. • Sage grouse translocation, passed unanimously. • Pen reared game birds rule amendments, passed unanimously. • Antelope Island memorandum of understanding, passed unanimously. • Gary Nielson elected as Chairman of Wildlife Board. • August 1, 2025 - Emergency Board Meeting • Bob Christensen and Ryan Fouts sworn in as new board members • Monroe Canyon fire proposals to allow relief for hunters effected by the fire, passed unanimously. Bryant Johnson: thanked the Division for being proactive in regard to the Monroe Mountain.
06:18:20	4) DWR Update (Informational) - Teresa Griffin, SRO Wildlife Program Manager updated the RAC on all regional activities. Wildlife Section:

- Growing mule deer population meetings later this month
- Completing Pronghorn classification
- Completing Elk classification
- Collar retrievals and necropsies
- Monitoring fire impacts to wildlife
- Updating deer unit plans (every 5 years)
- Water hole counts Gambel's Quail and Chukar, lack of moisture leading to poor reproduction.
- Hauling water to guzzlers
- Beaver relocations continue
- Bear nuisance in Marysvale this past week
- Conducting breeding bird surveys
- Assisted with NE Region Hummingbird banding
- Continued non lead ammunition education
- Prairie dog crew completed counts, trapping, dusting for fleas and completing surveys.

Aquatics:

- Wildfire ash flow and flooding in streams kills fish and damages habitat
- France Canyon salvaged nearly 100 Bonneville cutthroat trout transferred to Fountain Green hatchery.
- Forsyth attempted to salvage but few fish found, drought impact
- Monroe Manning Meadow water quality could be impacted, most of Western Toad habitat has burned coordination with USFS will continue.

Washington County Field Office:

- Western toad released on Paunsaugunt.
- Desert Tort spring monitoring
- Three Species-completed long term monitoring of Escalante Reservoir, Flannemouth and Bluehead suckers and highest number of Roundtail Chub captured since monitoring began.
- Southern Leatherside-completed long term monitoring in Middle Sevier, well distributed.
- Gandy Warm Spring-conducted rotenone treatments to remove invasive armored catfish.
- Springsnails-endemic Santa Clara Pyrg population survived the Forsyth Fire.
- Virgin River – Woundfin effort to collect wild fish for broodstock was unsuccessful. Southwest Willow Flycatchers currently have 9 breeding pair and 9 fledglings. Smallmouth Bass currently aging fish collected, Native fish monitoring in stream temperature and flow.

Habitat Section:

- Wildfires impacting habitat, developing rehab proposals for France Canyon burned 35K acres, Forsyth burned 15K acres, Gap burned 671 acres and Monroe Canyon has burned 63K and growing.
- Council tour 8/26 & 8/27 for more info contact Gary Bezzant to attend.

Outreach Section:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aug 9 Tushar Mountain Goat viewing event • Juvenile Justice summer program for troubled youth wrapped up • Dedicated Hunters can check for projects in the areas and progress on DWR website. <p>Law Enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping with security on fires • Jeremy Butler promoted to Sgt. in the AIS program. Wildlife section will miss his presence. • Educating boaters on AIS inspection stations.
06:27:44	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: What is the format for the deer meetings? • Teresa Griffin: Introduction, presentation and surveys then round table and feedback. • Austin Atkinson: Never been done at this level before? • Teresa Griffin: We have tried different ways. • Austin Atkinson: These are open to everyone.
06:28:00	Public Questions: None
06:28:20	RAC Discussion: None
06:29:45	<p>5) Recommended Changes to R657-42 and R657 – Surrenders (Action) And Variances.</p> <p>- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
06:30:50	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: How is it determined on variances/surrenders? Hunters asking "what about other units" for the fires? • Lindy Varney: Currently no rules address natural disasters, Director Peck has asked me to work on this, only the Wildlife Board has authority to make changes. • Austin Atkinson: Changing 120 to 30 days, if a hunter forgets to go on a hunt and then gets a cold they can send a doctors letter in and request a variance? • Lindy Varney: As long as the doctor's statement says this occurred during their hunt it could qualify. Eligibility issues, shortening the time

	<p>frame. Law enforcement has made cases from these variance requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Because you can't hunt for more than 1 day? • Lindy Varney: Yes, you have to be substantially precluded. • Austin Atkinson: Monroe Mountain, those that choose option 3, is that an extension or variance? • Lindy Varney: It is an extension. The board approved us to extend their hunt. • Austin Atkinson: Will we see those permit numbers when we approve permit numbers in April? What about the ones that get a variance? • Lindy Varney: Yes, very transparent. No, a small amount of variances for medical, very minor biological impact. Limited entry permits only get points reinstated and once in a lifetime can be extended. • Austin Atkinson: Someone draws a sheep tag, has a personal illness, form says yes they had illness. They get extension to hunt next year. Now there are 2 permits for that hunt the next year? • Lindy Varney: Correct. Must be signed by DO, MD, PA. • Austin Atkinson: Refunds stay the same, everyone can get refund except general season. • Lindy Varney: No refund for those that go through the variance process. Must be turned in before the end of the season to qualify for refund.
06:36:55	Public Questions: None
06:37:04	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Teresa Griffin summarized online comments:</p> <p>Question #1: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the surrender and variance rules?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 3 (100%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 3 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (3 * 5)] / 3 = 5$ <p>Bill Lane: From New Harmony, been involved with wildlife a little, brought mule deer foundation to Cedar City and ran it for 3 years. Here tonight to say that a 25% increase in the cost for a 1 day fishing license (actually 3 day) is a</p>

	<p>little high considering the rates in California. Arizona is \$5 for youth and \$20 for adult. Colorado \$17.64 for 1 day. Utah is the only one charging mandatory 3 day. People aren't going to buy fishing licenses and they will still fish. Utah is going to make criminals out of people. Oregon \$5 youth, \$23 for adult. Somebody is not thinking, these youth aren't going to fish legally at this price. Should be looked at, if the boards don't want to look at it we could take it to the press.</p> <p>Austin Atkinson: Thank you, we are all concerned with the price to hunt and fish. Appreciate your comments.</p>
06:43:11	RAC Discussion: None
06:43:16	<p>MOTION:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Chris Cannon.</p> <p>I move that we approve as presented.</p> <p>Passed unanimously.</p>
06:43:57	<p>6) Recommended changes to R657-41 and R657-62 (Action) Sportsman Draw and Group Applications - Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>
06:44:16	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Cannon: This is the one moving the date from Sunday to Monday, or Sunday to Saturday correct? Why moving one from Sunday to Monday and another from Sunday to Saturday? • Lindy Varney: Correct, if September 1st fell on a Sunday we would move it to August 31st. If August 1st was a Sunday we would move it to August 2nd the reason for that is we try not to hunt in July. • Austin Atkinson: Too many other things that happen in July. Trail camera season ends, flying restrictions. • Bryant Johnson: The sportsman's tags, the fee, does all that money go to those conducting the draw or back to DWR? Would it be beneficial to have sportsman drawing with the regular drawing? • Lindy Varney: Majority comes back to DWR. It is something that could be considered. Not a bad idea. • Bryant Johnson: I am going to recuse from voting on this. • Chuck Chamberlain: How much pushback on allowing people to buy points if they draw a sportsman tag? • Lindy Varney: None so far.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: What are you going to do for those that didn't get to buy points in years past? If someone draws LE sportsman do they have a waiting period? • Lindy Varney: Current rule would start with 2025. No clean cutoff date. No waiting period. • Austin Atkinson: Proposal is they could draw deer limited entry sportsman, they could buy a deer point that year as well and be able to apply next year, no waiting period? Where are group applications not allowed currently? • Lindy Varney: Currently can apply for a different species limited entry. Management Buck, Bear, Once in a lifetime species due to low numbers for each season. • Bryant Johnson: Drew sportsman tag 2022, Buffalo. Not on RAC at the time. I was unable to get point my once in a lifetime species. Other draws, Expo you can get the point. Should have been aligned with the other rules. Wrote a letter, was told this was an oversight. It has taken 2.5 years for this to come up again. Should be retroactive. • Lindy Varney: Unfortunately, it's been bumped, took that long to get on the agenda, this one was an oversight we do allow it for Conservation and Expo. Apologize it has taken this long. • Bryant Johnson: At the time I thought, hey they are listening. This is part of what got me to apply for RAC. I won't be making a motion, thank you.
06:54:18	Public Questions: None
06:54:26	<p>Public Comments:</p> <p>Teresa Griffin summarized online comments:</p> <p>Question #2: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended changes to the sportsman permits drawing and group applications?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 2 (67%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 1 (33%) • Total votes: 3 • Weighted average: $[(1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 3 = 3.67$

6:54:55 – 6:57:12	<p>RAC Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: There are only 10 sportsman's tags, is not that many people. Sportsman's draw is the forgotten stepchild of the draw. • Bryant Johnson: Would you have to ask them or say you have 60 days to verify that you were one of them. <p>TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES Recording resumed 7:00:01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: You're messing with peoples entire hunting strategy and hunting plans. If there is something we can do to rectify this I would be in favor. • Bryant Johnson: That would be very important for someone applying for sheep on the Escalante before they are too old to draw. • Chris Cannon: How big of a can of worms are we talking if we go retroactive? • Austin Atkinson: Hundreds and hundreds, an absolute nightmare but I think it could be done. Utah doesn't purge points. Go back and give everyone a point, there would only be high points on 1 species. • Bryant Johnson: Should purge point, group applications being created using dead persons point to up their chances. Just pay for that persons permit and get to hunt. • Lindy Varney: They are marked deceased in the system so that points can't be used. We only know if someone calls us to inform us they have passed. Even if we purged points we wouldn't know who was deceased unless we had been called. If we were to go back over the sportsman permit holders to allow them to choose, it would be over 300 people over the last 30 years. That would change how people applied or the have drawn out. It would be a huge admin overhaul. Huge domino effect that could occur if you were to retroact this.
07:04:16	<p>MOTION:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the division's proposal as presented.</p> <p>Passed 7 in favor, Bryant Johnson recused.</p>
07:07:33	<p>7) Recommended changes to R657-73 Tagging Requirements (Action) - Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator</p> <p>Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions.</p>

	Clarification, this is a new rule we are creating allowing you to electronic or physically tag animal.
07:08:35	<p>RAC Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bryant Johnson: Will it work similar to deadhead app, if you are out of service it will send when you get back into service? What if you are stopped between kill site and service? • Lindy Varney: Reopen the app and yes, it will send. They can still see on your phone. • Bryant Johnson: If I remember correctly, send pictures in too? • Lindy Varney: Changed to 3 photos instead of 4 • Chris Cannon: Has this been tried before? • Lindy Varney: We did a trial with turkey, it worked great. • Austin Atkinson: Purchase waiting period? Buy tag online and use it 10 minutes later? When will it be ready? Will it require an app update? • Lindy Varney: Have to have service to download to the app. Roll out later this fall, yes, require app update. • Austin Atkinson: Location issue? Does it have to connect to phones GPS for exact location? GRAMA request would allow me to get all the harvest data for the last 20 years, what is going to keep people from doing that with this information? • Lindy Varney: Currently you can type in “none of your business canyon”, exact location is better info for bios. If you don’t want to give location, use physical tag. Classified information, we have already worked through this. Photos also classified. Biologists will have the access. We aren’t using the data for personal use. • Austin Atkinson: Photos, proof of sex? • Lindy Varney: Antlers, each side. • Austin Atkinson: Nothing physically attached to carcass? Rule says “your possession” I can’t have someone else take it off the mountain for me? Buddy takes meat to meat locker, I have head at camp. • Lindy Varney: Your possession. The buddy would need to have harvest code with them. No changes to transporting regulations. • Austin Atkinson: Still going to mail out physical tags? • Lindy Varney: Yes, we hope to evolve to opt in/opt out. • Austin Atkinson: Surveys, how about wounded animals? • Lindy Varney: Same harvest questions, more flexibility since this is going to move in-house. • Austin Atkinson: What about when I take it to taxidermist? • Lindy Varney: Just need the harvest code.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Barney: Officers on board with ETag? • Lindy Varney: Yes, they are on board. We have worked through the kinks. They like it. • Brooklyn Cox: How are you going to, say you harvest and tag with a physical tag, then the next day you go out and use the digital tag. What prevents this? • Lindy Varney: We have law enforcement for that. No matter what we do, we aren't going to stop poachers from poaching. You can go down to Wal-Mart now and get a duplicate and hunt with 2 physical tags in your pocket. We want to manage to the majority of our public. • Austin Atkinson: Once this is approved, all current valid tags will be converted to ETag? • Lindy Varney: Yes, no opt in this year.
07:20:59	Public Questions: None
07:21:01	<p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Griffin summarized online comments: <p>Question #3: Which best describes your position regarding the recommended tagging (and e-tagging) requirements?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 3 (100%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 3 • Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (3 * 5)] / 3 = 5$
07:21:30	RAC Discussion: None
07:21:55	<p>MOTION:</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Chris Cannon.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve as presented.</p>

	Passed unanimously.
07:23:31	Next RAC Meeting: September 02, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. DNR Richfield City Complex. Meeting adjourned.

RAC AGENDA
August 6th, 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. Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Recommended changes R657-73
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |

CR RAC – July 29th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/gALMTYJIF2I>

NR RAC – July 30th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/3xRGm_rm4TY

SR RAC – August 5th, 6:00 PM
DNR Cedar City Complex
646 N Main St., Cedar City
<https://youtube.com/live/Pil2aplMY54>

SER RAC – August 6th, 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/MFmU0Km72fA>

NER RAC – May 22nd, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/ksyX6RvbH5g>

Board Meeting – June 12th, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington
<https://youtube.com/live/ycDc9mbAbLc>

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

August 6th, 2025

Summary of Motions

Action Item 1: Approval of Minutes

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the minutes as written.

Action Item 2: Approval of Agenda

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Daniel Luke and passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the agenda.

Action Item 3: Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57 – Surrenders and Variances

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

Motion: To approve the division's recommendation as presented.

Action Item 4: Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62 – Sportsman draw and group applications

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

Motion: To approve the division's recommendation as presented.

Action Item 5: Recommended changes R657-73 - Tagging requirements

- The following motion was made by Mat Farnsworth, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve as presented with the addition that the photographs on e-tagging be considered as proof of sex, if paper tagging is considered, the current rule still applies.

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

August 6th, 2025

Attendance

RAC Members

Scot Flannery – Chair
Cash Stallings – Vice Chair
Chris Wood –Exec Secretary

Steven Duke
Charles Fischer
Jake Palma

Matt Farnsworth
Daniel Luke
Brad Richman

Board Members

Kent Johnson

Gary Nielson

RAC Excused

Jack Cantsee Jr.
Justin Ivins

Tyler Gilson
Joe Sacco

Trish Hedin

Division Personnel

Lindy Varney
Brandon Behling

Chris Wood
Kyler Stilson

JD Abbott

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
August 6th, 2025
Minutes

- 00:00:07** **1) Chairman Scoot Flannery** called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and read a statement. All RAC members introduced themselves.
- 00:05:38** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** To approve the minutes.
- 00:06:29** **3) Regional Update – (Informational)**
- Chris Wood Updated the RAC on all regional activities.
- 00:13:13** **4) Wildlife Board Meeting Update given by Scoot Flannery (Informational)**
- Link on website to view.
- 00:18:05** **5) Approval of Agenda**
- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Daniel Luke and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** To approve the agenda
- 00:20:15** **6) Recommended changes R657-42 & R657-57 – Surrenders and Variances (Action)**
- View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- Lindy Varney summarized the presentation.
- 00:23:21** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- Refund for limited entry and once in a lifetime permits only.
- 00:24:10** **Public Comment/Questions**
- None
- 00:24:12** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**
- None
- 00:24:41** **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Length of court ordered subpoena and hunters who could hunt more than one day determining approval.

00:25:35 The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's recommendation as presented.

00:26:31 **7) Recommended changes R657-41 & R657-62 – Sportsman draw and group applications (Action)**

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

Lindy Varney summarized the presentation.

00:30:01 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

None.

00:30:15 **Public Comments/Questions**

None

00:30:16 **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**

Chris Wood summarized the public vote

00:30:36 **RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

Concern about sportsman and conservation permit holders to hunt a day early and take away from archers pursuing the same animal. Recommendations seem well thought out and straight forward. Unclear about the reason for not starting a hunt on Sunday.

00:32:31 The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed 6-1

MOTION: Accept the division's recommendation as presented.

00:33:39 **8) Recommended changes R657-73 – Tagging requirements (Action)**

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

Lindy Varney summarized the presentation.

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

If e-tagging is submitted with photographs can that be considered proof of sex? Reason for both options being available. Confirmation code needed for transport. Geolocation with e-tagging. Law enforcement's opinion regarding possible abuse of the new system.

00:42:12 **Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**

Chris Wood summarized the public comments received.

00:42:09 **Public Comments/Questions**

Kent Singleton – Eminent domain and trespassing issues. Reference to his property owned in Morgan County. Wife received criminal trespass charge. Walk-in-access issue. Request to move outdated signage for parcel no longer enrolled in the Walk-in-access program.

William Austin Carter – E-tagging opens the door for more abuse. Lack of enforcement as is. Bison issues on property and GRAMA requests. No deer in the Bookcliffs. Lack of integrity of top level DNR officials costing water, private properties, family and freedom.

00:50:53 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

This program seems to address all e-tagging concerns. Agreement with removing the requirement for tag remaining with meat. Photos as proof of sex requirement. Proof of sex requirement in other states. Ability to see confirmation code without phone service. Clarification on photo requirements. Possibility for fourth photo to be proof of sex. Comparison to the dead head app requirements.

00:58:55 The following motion was made by Mat Farnsworth, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the division's recommendation as presented with the addition that photographs on e-tagging be considered evidence of proof of sex. If paper tagging is considered, the current rules still apply.

01:00:08 The following motion was made by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To adjourn.

Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

August 7th, 2025

RAC Present	RAC Excused	RAC Not Present
Mark Chynoweth	Willis Lefevere	
Adam Nielson		
Dwayne Davies		
Eric Major		
Grizz Oleen		
Nathan Crapo		
Jake Huber		
Richard Buehler		
Dan Abeyta for Natasha Hadden		
Jordon McMahon		
Collin Crozier		

Wildlife Board

-Bob Christensen

-Kent Johnson

-Gary Nielson (online)

DWR Staff Present

Miles Hanberg	Lindy Varney	
Levi Watkins		
Dallon Christensen		
Torrey Christophersen		
Pat Rainbolt		

Tonya Kieffer-Selby		
Mike Christensen		

00:00:00	1) Welcome and introductions by RAC Chairman, Grizz Oleen.
00:09:04	2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following motion was made by Jordon McMahon, seconded by Dwayne Davies, and passed unanimously. <p>MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.</p>
00:09:50	3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grizz Oleen read the motions summary from the June 12th, 2025 Wildlife Board meeting.
00:13:31	4) Regional Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miles Hanberg gave a brief summary of regional updates.
00:25:25	5) <u>Recommended changes to R657-42 & R657-57 Amendments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented by Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator Lindy did a brief summary of the amendments to the rules.
00:28:24	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why was there a liberal 120 day timeframe before this change? Is 30 days enough time to get in to see a Dr. ? Is there a way to make an initial contact and report prior to seeing a doctor if the scheduling is an issue? How many variances and surrenders are there each year?
00:32:32	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No questions from the public
00:32:39	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No online comments.

00:32:45	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Public comments.
00:32:52	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No RAC discussion.
00:33:06	MOTION: To accept Amendments as presented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Nathan Crapo and passed unanimously. • MOTION: To accept Amendments as presented.
00:33:50	6) <u>Recommended changes to R657-41 & R657-62 Amendments</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator. • Lindy did a brief summary of the amendments to the rules.
00:37:46	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from RAC.
00:37:58	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the public.
00:38:06	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No online comments.
00:38:15	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments.
00:38:20	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the possibility of retroacting points that have been lost on the once in a lifetime because of drawing expo/sportsmans permits.
00:40:56	MOTION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Eric Major, and passed unanimously. • MOTION: To accept amendments as presented.

00:41:26	7) <u>Recommended changes to R657-73</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator. • Lindy did a brief summary of the amendments to the rules.
00:44:57	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will a GPS location be required to tag? • Will it be confidential information? • Does it apply to all species? • What requirements are needed for photos and will you need a proof of sex photo? • Will it fulfill the harvest survey request? • Do you need service for it to work and will you be able to download multiple family members tags? • Is it going to be ready for the 2025 archery hunt? • Will it be evaluated by an officer or biologist right away? • Will you still be able to choose from a paper tag or will etag be the only option? • Will officers be able to verify the etag code right away? • Will etag eventually be permanent and the only way to tag?
00:55:30	<i>Questions from the public</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No questions from the public.
00:55:38	<i>Online comment summary</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No online comments.
00:55:39	<i>Public comment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public comments.
00:55:52	<i>RAC discussion</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible concern about the biologist not being discreet enough about locations or misusing the data. • Make a specific requirement about proof of sex photos. • Data getting into the hands of the public.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing having some leeway with a two mile radius of gps coordinates. • Talked about buffer zone on phones with location.
01:03:02	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Dwayne Davies, seconded by Jordon McMahon, and passed Unanimously • MOTION: To accept amendments as presented.
01:04:09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8) <u>RAC Chair and Vice Chair Election</u>
01:11:52	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Eric Majors, and passed unanimously. • MOTION: To appoint Eric Major as RAC Chairman.
01:13:20	<p><i>Motion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following motion was made by Jake Huber, seconded by Eric Majors, and passed unanimously. • MOTION: To appoint Nathan Crapo as Vice RAC Chairman.
01:13:51	A motion to Adjourn made by Jordon McMahon, seconded by Adam Nielson, and passed unanimously.
01:14:00	Adjourn



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DIEDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

Riley Peck
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

DATE: Aug 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) tools for over objective units

In June of 2024 the Wildlife Board approved revisions to the CWMU rule. Included in the revision were tools that can be used on CWMUs that are in units that have been 10 percent or more over objective the last 3 years. We are recommending the following tools to be used on the following CWMUs:

CWMU	Recommended tools
Deseret	2 nd cow permit for antlered and antlerless hunters
Ensign Ranches	2 nd cow permit for antlerless hunters
East Fork Chalk Creek	2 nd cow permit for antlerless and antlered hunters
Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	2 nd cow permit for antlerless and antlered hunters
Weber Florence Creek/Stillman Creek	2 nd cow permit for antlerless and antlered hunters

We are also requesting that the Board consider allowing DWR to continue to implement these tools in the future with updates to the Board annually about what methods were implemented, and how effective those measures were.

DD



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

RILEY PECK
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator

DATE: August 4, 2025

SUBJECT: **Drought Permits for Henry Mountains Bison**

The Henry Mountains Bison Management Plan calls for a population management objective to “maintain a post-hunt population size of 325 adult (age 1+) bison within the Henry Mountains Wildlife Management Unit”. Strategies within that objective include the following:

- Habitat conditions, including effects of drought, will be discussed with the bison committee when harvest recommendations are reviewed.
- Utilize the United States Drought Monitor...to make temporary adjustments in the bison population size depending on drought severity and range conditions. If drought-related conditions and bison densities negatively impact habitat, recommend additional bison permits at the August Wildlife Board meeting.

Proposed Henry Mountains Bison Drought Permits:

- Aerial survey conducted on August 5-6
- Estimated 360 adults (pre-hunt)
- Over objective for bull:cow ratio
- Mountain was very dry
- Some troughs were dry
- Recommending additional 19 hunter's choice permits
 - 6 permits to BI6503
 - 6 permits to BI6504
 - 7 permits to BI6516
- Additional permits would bring post-hunt estimates to ~280 adults and help bring bull:cow ratio within objective
- Recommendations supported by agriculture and conservation partners

RR

