

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 4, 2013, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Amended AGENDA

Thursday, June 4, 2013 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda ACTION
– Del Brady, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes ACTION
– Del Brady, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log CONTINGENT
– Ernie Perkins, Vice-Chair
4. DWR Update INFORMATION
– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director
5. Upland Game Recommendations ACTION
– Blair Stringham, Upland Game Biologist
6. Goat Management Plan ACTION
– Kent Hersey, Big Game Project Leader
7. Bighorn Sheep Management Plan ACTION
– Kent Hersey, Big Game Project Leader
8. Urban Deer – New Rule R657-65 ACTION
– Martin Bushman, Attorney
9. NRO Deer Management Plans ACTION
– Darren Deblois, Asst. Wildlife Manager
10. Other Business CONTINGENT
– Del Brady, Chairman

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 4, 2013, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as amended.

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

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2013 Work Session meeting and the May 2, 2013 Wildlife Board Meeting as corrected.

3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)

Action Item: for DWR to present a proposal to the RACs that group applications be allowed for the limited entry turkey, sage-grouse, and sharp-tailed grouse hunts.

Action Item: for DWR to reconsider allowing Dedicated Hunter program applicants to accrue volunteer hours in the first year after they apply in the program rather than waiting until the final selections and approval. Also, have the DWR bring the list of approved efforts for hours to the Board for review and consideration.

4) Upland Game Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we place on the action log the request for use of a 28 gauge shotgun for turkeys.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Upland Game Recommendations as presented by the Division.

5) Goat Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we establish an action log for DWR to develop a rule to define plan creations, notifications, participation, composition, and processes for species management plans and unit management plans that cover big game, bear, cougar, and turkey.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Goat Management Plan as presented, with the requirement that unit plans be produced for the “Reintroduction Sites” listed in the plan and be taken through the appropriate RACs and Board.

6) Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented with the inclusion of inviting all affected cooperative agencies and permit holders in the decision process when formulating a unit management plan.

7) Urban Deer – New Rule R657-65 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the new Urban Deer Rule R657-65 as presented by the Division and revise the \$50 fee to be used toward selection of certified hunters and meat processing by the city.

8) NRO Deer Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the NRO Deer Management Plans as presented.

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1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/13-6-4.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

Del Brady – Chair
Ernie Perkins – Vice-Chair
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec
Mike King
Calvin Crandall
John Bair
Bill Fenimore
Jake Albrecht

RAC Chairs Present

Central – Fred Oswald
Southern – Steve Flinders
Southeastern – Derris Jones
Northeastern - Boyde Blackwell
Northern – Robert Byrnes

Public Present

Kevin Albrecht

Byron Bateman, SFW Keven Jensen
Dave Black Jesse Jensen
Fox 13 News Richard Dunn

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks Anis Aoude
Rory Reynolds Chris Wood
Mike Canning Kenny Johnson
Staci Coons Mark Hadley
Thu Vo-Wood Scott White
Blair Stringham John Shivik
Kent Hersey John Fairchild
Marty Bushman Bill Bates
Darren Debloois Scott McFarlane
Bryan Christensen Kevin Bunnell
Justin Shannon Lindy Varney
Dax Mangus Tory Mathis
Judi Tutorow Randall Thacker
Jason Robinson Justin Dolling
Troy Davis Robyn Pearson
Covy Jones Darin Bird

Troy Justenson, SFW Lynn Ritchie, Highland Mayor
Gary Nielsen Tye Boulder, UWC
Mary O'Brien, Grand Canyon Trust

Chairman Brady welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife board and RAC Chairs.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:00:11 – 00:01:32 of 04:25:45**

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as amended.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:01:33 – 00:01:57 of 04:25:45**

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2013 work session meeting and the March 2, 2103 Wildlife Board Meeting as corrected.

3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent) 00:01:58 – 00:07:29 of 04:25:45

Action Item: for DWR to present a proposal to the RACs that group applications be allowed for the limited entry turkey, sage-grouse, and sharp-tailed grouse hunts.

Action Item: for DWR to reconsider allowing Dedicated Hunter program applicants to accrue volunteer hours in the first year after they apply in the program rather than waiting until the final selections and approval. Also, have the DWR bring the list of approved efforts for hours to the Board for review and consideration.

4) DWR Update (Informational) 00:07:30 – 00:13:46 of 04:25:45

Greg Sheehan recognized and acknowledged Del Brady and Ernie Perkins for their years of service on the Wildlife Board.

DWR hosted the first Stewardship Awards recognizing citizens who have contributed to the promotion and conservation of wildlife recreation and resources in the state.

The day-old-chick program was re-established. Nearly 3,400 chicks were distributed this past week.

Bill Bates is the new wildlife section chief.

The big game draw was successful this year. Remaining permits will be posted online soon.

5) Upland Game Recommendations (Action) 00:17:20 – 00:36:23 of 04:25:45

Blair Stringham presented the recommendations for upland game.

Board Questions 00:24:43 – 00:32:04

The Board focused their questions on sandhill cranes – permit allocation history, survey history, depredation issues and how they are addressed. DWR has been working with Wildlife Services to address some of the depredation issues. Permit allocation may be modified, but harvest data needs to be collected in order to make the necessary adjustments.

RAC Recommendations 00:32:26 – 00:33:46

All RACs unanimously passed the Upland Game Recommendations as presented.

NRO requested the Board create an action log item to address Mike Christensen's petition for use of a 28 gauge shotgun for turkeys. Motion passed 8 to 1 with one abstention.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we place on the action log the request for use of a 28 gauge shotgun for turkeys.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Upland Game Recommendations as presented by the Division.

6) Goat Management Plan (Action) 00:36:24 – 01:37:56 of 04:25:45

Kent Hersey presented the goat management plan.

Board Questions 00:44:40 – 00:049:23

The Board wondered about disease potential with domestic sheep and procedures to address them. Although disease has occurred in other states, it is not a concern or issue in Utah; thus, no plans have been developed to address it.

RAC Recommendation 00:50:18 – 00:54:00

The Goat Management Plan passed unanimously at all RACs except for the Southeast RAC. They added several stipulations and passed the plan with two opposing votes.

Public Comments 00:54:01 – 01:00:13

Mary O'Brien, Grand Canyon Trust, stated her objections to the plan. She said there would be irreparable habitat damage if goats were introduced to the La Sal area. The plan does not address limits, declines or monitoring of native plants.

In contrast, Byron Bateman stated his support of the plan. He said the Division has the wherewithal to monitor the plan and make the necessary adjustments.

Board Discussion 01:00:14 – 01:33:54

Bill Fenimore asked the Division to address O'Brien's remarks. Kent Hersey and Dax Mangus both stated there have not been any negative impacts to habitat where goats have been introduced. Twenty years of data collected by the Forest Service, namely on Ashley Forest, found no impact to vegetation or habitat. Extensive monitoring on the Tuscher Mountain and Willard Peak resulted in the same conclusion.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we establish an action log for DWR to develop a rule to define plan creations, notifications, participation, composition, and processes for species management plans and unit management plans that cover big game, bear, cougar, and turkey.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Goat Management Plan as presented, with the requirement that unit plans be produced for the “Reintroduction Sites” listed in the plan and be taken through the appropriate RACs and Board.

7) Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (Action) 01:38:31 – 02:47:15 of 04:25:45

Kent Hersey presented the bighorn sheep management plan.

Public Questions 01:52:55 – 02:01:12

Keven Jensen had questions pertaining to a litigious litigation issue that DWR, BLM, and his family sheep ranch are in the midst of resolving.

RAC Recommendations 02:01:16 – 02:03:49

Southern and Northern RACs unanimously passed the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented. Southeast and Central RACs passed with one opposing vote each.

Northeast RAC approved the plan 7 to 2. They also unanimously accepted a motion to include all cooperative agencies and permit holders in the decision-making process prior to drafting future plans for the next revision.

Public Comments 02:03:50 – 02:08:18

Keven Jensen continued his discussion on the sheep ranch issue. His brother, Jesse Jensen, expressed appreciation for the Board and Division’s concerns for ranchers on the sandhill crane depredation matter and asked that they keep the ranchers in mind when making decisions.

Board Discussion 02:08:58 – 02:47:15

Board comments and discussions were directed at the Jensen ranch issue and the public process in affecting policy. Similar to the goat plan, the discussion was muddled in unit plans versus statewide species plans.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented with the inclusion of inviting all affected cooperative agencies and permit holders in the decision

process when formulating a unit management plan.

8) Urban Deer Control – New Rule R657-65 (Action) 02:48:11 – 03:27:09 of 04:25:45

Martin Bushman presented a pilot program for urban deer control. The plan will have flexibility to allow cities to address their unique situations.

Board Questions 02:54:30 – 02:57:00

The Board wanted clarifications on some of the restrictions and reasoning behind some requirements.

RAC Recommendations 02:57:04 – 02:58:03

Central RAC approved the new Urban Deer Rule R657-65 as presented with one dissenting vote.

Northern RAC unanimously passed the rule with a side note for DWR to make recommendations to cities on methods to mitigate wildlife damage.

Public Comments 02:28:44 – 03:26:03

Mayor Lynn Ritchie of Highland thanked the Division for helping develop the plan. He requested the Board amend the rule to include not turning in all the antlers and increasing the fee to cover expenses.

Marty Bushman explained that in order to keep the activities of the program consistent with the purpose of the rule (urban deer control) lower fees were adopted and antlers were taken out of the equation to prevent trophy hunting within city limits.

More discussion, comments, and questions ensued.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the new Urban Deer Rule R657-65 as presented by the Division and revise the \$50 fee to be used toward selection of certified hunters and meat processing by the city.

9) NRO Deer Management Plans (Action) 03:27:45 – 03:41:24 of 04:25:45

Darren Debloois presented the northern region deer management plans, which include enhanced habitat needs for each unit.

Northern RAC unanimously recommended the Board approve the plan as presented.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the NRO Deer Management Plans as presented.

10) Other Business (**Contingent**) **03:41:31 – 04:25:45 of 04:25:45**

Greg Sheehan announced two new wildlife board members: Kirk Woodward and Steve Dalton.

The Board voted for chair and vice-chair positions. Jake Albrecht was elected chair and Bill Fenimore was elected vice-chair.

Marty Bushman updated the Board on the Jensen/BLM sheep issue in the Northeast region.

The Mogle appeal date was set for August 6 at 1:00 p.m. Four board members will be present for the appeal.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved