

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 5, 2013, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, December 5, 2013, Board Meeting 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
 - Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair
 - Preference Point Update
 - Nine Mile Range Creek Update
 - Transfer of Permits to Veterans Update
 - Exemptions for Companion Hunters of Disabled Sportsmen
 - Update on Dedicated Hunter Projects
4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**
 - Greg Sheehan, DWR Director
5. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline, Amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites **ACTION**
 - Justin Shannon, Wildlife Program Coordinator
6. CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 **ACTION**
 - Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator
7. Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 **ACTION**
 - Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Program Coordinator
8. Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule) **ACTION**
 - Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General
9. Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments **ACTION**
 - Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator
10. Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan **ACTION**
 - Dustin Schaible, Wildlife Biologist
11. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 5, 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 Kirk Woodward, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

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

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

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the November 7, 2013 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**)

4 action log items were addressed:

Preference Point – Lindy Varney

Nine Mile Range Creek – Brad Crompton

Transfer of Permits to Veterans – Robin Cahoon

Exemption for Companion Hunters of Disabled Sportsmen – Kenny Johnson/Martin Bushman

Update on Dedicated Hunter Projects – Bryan Christensen

4) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 5-1. Mike King voted against the motion.

MOTION: I move that the Central Mountain/Nebo/Wasatch West sheep unit be available to sportsman tag holders on even number years and available to governor tag holders on odd number years.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed

5-1. Mike King opposed.

MOTION: I move that we add Ben Lowder's request to extend the goat hunt season to the action log and have the Division evaluate the hunt structure and report on their findings at the same time next year.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed 5-1. John Bair dissented.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Division's recommendation for primitive weapons only spike hunt on the Monroe unit.

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

MOTION: I move that any deer transplant include predator control as part of the process and be evaluated prior to the transplant.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4-2. John Bair and Kirk Woodward dissented.

MOTION: I move that we keep the extended archery bull elk hunt in the Sanpete Valley.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, Amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites as presented by the division.

5) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented by the division.

6) Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Landowner Permit

Numbers for 2014 as presented by the Division with the inclusion of the Diamond Mountain variance.

- 7) Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule) (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented by the Division.

- 8) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

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

- 9) Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 5, 2013, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/13-12-05_part1.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

Jake Albrech – Chair
Bill Fenimore – Vice Chair
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec
Calvin Crandall
John Bair
Kirk Woodward
Mike King
Steve Dalton

RAC Chairs Present

Southern – Kevin Bunnell
Southeastern – Chris Wood
Central – Gary Nielsen
Northern – Robert Byrnes
Northeastern - Boyde Blackwell

Public Present

Deloss Christensen
Ryan Cowley
Bryce Pilling – SFW
Byron Bateman – SFW
Tye Boulter – UWC
Todd Black – CWMU Association
Ben Lowder – UT Bowmen’s Association
Mile Moretti – Mule Deer Foundation
Lee Sorenson – North Bend Hunting 5 Land Owners
Bill Christensen – Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks
Mike Canning
Rory Reynolds
Staci Coons
Thu Vo-Wood
Kenny Johnson
Robin Cahoon
Brad Crompton
Kent Hersey
Dax Mangus
Eric Edgley
Covy Jones
Anita Candelaria
Martin Bushman
Gary Ogborn
Justin Dolling
Leslie McFarlane
Greg Hansen
Scott McFarlane
Dustin Schaible
Justin Shannon
Bryan Christensen
Phil Gray
Teresa Griffin
Martin Bushman
Riley Peck
Judi Tutorow
Randy Wood
Lindy Varney
Dean Mitchell
Bill Bates
Vance Mumford
Rick Olson
Mark Hadley

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:44 – 00:03:09 of 04:40:28**

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded John Bair by and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:03:10 – 00:04:14 of 04:40:28**

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the November 7, 2013 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent) 00:04:21 – 00:19:23 of 04:40:28

4 action log items were addressed:

Preference Point – Lindy Varney 00:04:49 – 00:05:32

There is no new data at this time. A report will be compiled after the close of the big game drawing March 6, 2014, and presented at the June board meeting.

Nine Mile Range Creek – Brad Crompton 00:05:34 – 00:010:12

The 2013 bull harvest data is not available yet; however, after two seasons with the expansion of the any bull hunt, the increase in hunting opportunity did not show a significant rise in bull harvest or trespassing issues. Educating hunters about private property boundaries in the area has helped address trespassing concerns.

Transfer of Permits to Veterans – Robin Cahoon 00:10:15 – 00:13:52

DWR has been working with CWMUs to accommodate David Gurr's petition. A provision in rule R6357-37-9(10) allows for donations of unused vouchers to 501(c)(3) organizations. The establishment of the Military Installation Permit Program will further enable the Division to address Gurr's request.

Exemption for Companion Hunters of Disabled Sportsmen – Kenny Johnson 00:13:54 – 00:16:33

After reviewing the issue from a legal, law enforcement, and licensing aspect, it is the Division's recommendation to keep the rule as is rather than pursue a statutory amendment to alleviate a negative social perception.

Update on Dedicated Hunter Projects – Bryan Christensen 00:16:35 – 00:19:23

Bryan provided an overview of dedicated hunter participants, their total contributed hours, and the various projects they completed.

4) DWR Update (Informational) 00:19:27 – 00:50:49 of 04:40:28

Greg Sheehan announced the passing of a previous board member, Dick Diamond.

Scofield Reservoir has witnessed tremendous fishing records this year. Various wildlife projects are taking place around the state. Greg invited the board and public to participate in the post-season deer count.

DWR will be facing some challenges with the closing of the federal hatchery program at Jones Hole.

UDOT has committed to revisiting highway fencing along Hwy 89 in Sanpete County. A highway deer mortality study and effectiveness of highway crossings report will be added to the January agenda, presented by Daniel Olson.

DWR representatives and sportsmen representatives attended a public hearing in Arizona on wolf delisting.

The Henry bison hunt was not severely impacted by weather. Twelve permits were surrendered and reallocated with the exception of four.

- 5) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2014 Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites **(Action) 00:50:52 – 03:06:10 of 04:40:28**

Justin Shannon presented the recommendations for the 2014 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites.

Board Questions 01:03:13 – 01:09:30

Mike King wanted to know the reasoning behind changing Antelope Island's hunt date. This was to accommodate traffic flow for hunters and visitors at the park.

John Bair asked if the Division surveyed the Nebo/Wasatch West units prior to making a recommendation to add Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunts to the area. The Division identified at least five rams during their survey and is recommending that this unit be a limited harvest area. The low density of rams in the unit did not warrant addressing the sportsman's or governor's tags. Other sheep units have an abundant population and provide better opportunities for harvesting bigger sheep.

Steve Dalton asked for clarification on the Division's recommendation for the Monroe unit. DWR would like to remove the any weapon hunt on the unit and only allow primitive weapons (muzzleloader, archery).

Steve Dalton and Calvin Crandall asked for the Division's justification on the Sanpete Valley extended archery hunt. By eliminating the bull elk hunt from the Sanpete Valley extended archery hunt, the Division can curtail the negative social perception of allowing archers into a limited entry unit after the close of the hunt. Cow elk hunts will continue to maintain pressure in the area.

Public Questions 01:09:37 – 01:12:12

Public questions were accepted at this time.

RAC Recommendations 01:12:33 – 01:18:35

Northeast and Central RACs passed the 2014 season dates and application timeline recommendations unanimously. Southeast RAC passed the recommendation, with an exception to increase predator control. Northern RAC passed the recommendation 8-5, adding an amendment, which failed. Southern passed it with an added motion to keep the spike elk hunting on the Monroe as is.

Public Comments 01:18:40 – 01:48:23

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 01:48:28 – 03:06:10

Justin Shannon revised the bull elk harvest on the Sanpete to 8-12/year and 4-8/year for cow elk. He explained there are three hunts: depredation permits, late season cow hunts (limited entry draw), and extended archery (over-the-counter). The Board delved further into the Sanpete Valley discussion – history and evolution, social factors, landowner concerns.

There was some discussion about whether or not the spike hunt on the Monroe unit was a temporary fix or a long term effort.

Jake Albrecht summarized the public's comments: Sanpete Valley extended archery hunt; possible action log item on mountain goats; predator control before transfer of mule deer; sportsman and governor tags on sheep unit; and landowner concerns on Monroe spike elk hunt. The Board tackled each issue individually.

02:10:11

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 5-1. Mike King voted against the motion.

MOTION: I move that the Central Mountain/Nebo/Wasatch West sheep unit be available to sportsman tag holders on even number years and available to governor tag holders on odd number years.

There was some concern about harvesting more than one animal in the same unit; however, all units face the same problem with sportsman or governor tag holders. Alternating these tags limit the take to two rather than three. Greg Sheehan cautioned the Board that there may be some confusion with conservation groups who market these tags.

02:15:51

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed 5-1. Mike King opposed.

MOTION: I move that we add Ben Lowder's request to extend the goat hunt season to the action log and have the Division evaluate the hunt structure and report on their findings at the same time next year.

Ben Lowder requested extending the goat season date so goats can lengthen their hair and become more like trophy animals. Some Board members felt extending the goat season date would not adversely affect hunters' success rates. It could lower it because of weather conditions and access, but those factors are prevalent in any hunt.

02:22:32

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed 5-1. John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Division's recommendation for primitive weapons only spike hunt on the Monroe unit.

Vance Mumford did a quick presentation on the Division's proposal to reduce spike harvest in the Monroe area. Several options were considered and reviewed. It is not the Division's intent to reduce the overall spike permit allocation statewide; the permits are sold from the same quota.

02:43:45

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

MOTION: I move that any deer transplant include predator control as part of the planning process and be evaluated prior to the transplant.

02:54:00

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4-2. John Bair and Kirk Woodward opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the extended archery bull elk hunt in the Sanpete Valley.

There was some discourse over the Sanpete Valley hunt –mitigating depredation; generating extra income for landowners; baiting elk onto landowner properties; potentially setting bad precedence continuing with the program; negative social perception on over-the-counter permits in a limited entry unit.

03:05:07

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Bill Fenimore and

passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, Amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplanted sites as presented by the division.

- 6) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action) 03:06:43 – 03:25:55 of 04:40:28

Scott McFarlane presented the 2014 CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers.

Board Questions 03:18:27 – 03:22:53

Jake Albrecht requested further explanation on the high pronghorn number, the Desert permit allocation, and the outcome of cow elk tags retained by the CWMUs.

RAC Recommendations 03:23:08 – 03:24:49

All RACs voted unanimously to accept the CWMU management plans and permit numbers as presented.

Board Discussion 03:24:49 – 03:25:57

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented by the division.

- 7) Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 (Action) 03:25:57 – 03:33:36 of 04:40:28

Scott McFarlane presented the Landowner voucher recommendations for 2014.

RAC Recommendations 03:29:14 – 03:32:19

Southern, Southeast, and Northern RACs unanimously passed the 2014 voucher recommendations as presented. Central RAC passed it with one abstaining vote.

Northeast passed it 6-2 with the Diamond Mountain Landowner variance.

Board Discussion 03:32:20 – 03:33:36

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2014 as presented by the Division with the inclusion of the Diamond Mountain variance.

- 8) Utah Hunter Mentoring Program (New Rule) (Action) 03:36:40 – 03:56:11 of 04:40:28

Greg Hansen presented the new Utah Hunter Mentoring Program rule.

Board Questions 03:42:41 – 03:48:55

The Board asked for clarification on the qualification and responsibility of the mentor, ownership of the permit, and qualifying minor. They also wanted to know if concerns about compensation and points were considered.

RAC Recommendations 03:49:05 – 03:51:18

Southern, Northern, Southeast, and Northern RACs unanimously passed the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program. Central RAC passed it 9-1. Northern RAC included a motion to explore pursuing legislative amendments to qualifying minors, residency requirements, and inconsistent language with DWR rule age definitions.

Public Comments 03:51:49 – 03:52:35

Public comments were taken at this time.

Board Discussion 03:52:36 – 03:53:09

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented by the Division.

Martin Bushman explained the thought process in crafting the program to better enable it to pass legislation.

- 9) Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (Action) 03:56:52 – 04:19:49 of 04:40:28

Bryan Christensen presented the Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments.

Board/RAC Questions 04:07:10 – 04:13:39

The Board asked for details on service hour accountability and handling of poaching reward permits.

Wasatch Front limited archery is considered part of the general season hunt.

RAC Recommendations 04:14:11 – 04:18:03

All RACs unanimously passed the rule amendments. Southern and Northern RACs included stipulations in their motions.

Board Discussion 04:18:04 – 04:19:49

Kevin Bunnell explained the Southern RAC's concern about losing the ability to bank hours.

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

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

- 10) Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (**Action**)
04:19:52 – 04:32:53 of 04:40:28

Dustin Schiable presented the management plan for Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.

Board Questions 04:23:26 – 04:29:10

Mike King, Bill Fenimore, and Calvin Crandall asked for clarification on sources for transplant, proximity to domestic grazing units, buffer zone concerns, and response to handling conflicts.

RAC Recommendations 04:29:30 – 04:31:08

Southern and Central RACs passed the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep management plan.

Public Comments 04:31:10 – 04:32:01

Public comments were taken at this time.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Oak Creek Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.

- 11) Other Business (**Contingent**) **04:32:54 – 04:40:28 of 04:40:28**

There was a discussion about Northern RAC's request to change the age restriction for applying for big game permits, which was brought about because of the mentoring program presentation. The Board agreed it was not necessary to pursue the request since the point of the program is to introduce and encourage young people to the sport.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved