

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 3, 2020

Electronic Meeting

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/8t7rVxn13qE>

AGENDA

Thursday, December 3, 2020, Board Meeting 9:00 am

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| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman
• Update – Dedicated Hunter and General Season Deer Applications – Lindy Varney | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Waterfowl Recommendations and R657-9 Rule Amendments
– Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. 2021 Big Game Seasons, Key Dates, Hunt Changes and Rule Amendments
– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Deer Management Plans – Population Objective Recommendations
– Regional Presentations | ACTION |
| 8. Deer Management Plans – Unit Plan Revision Recommendations
– Regional Presentations | ACTION |
| 9. CWMU and Landowner 2021 Permit Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Conservation and Expo Permit Adjustments
– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Other Business
– Byron Bateman, Chairman
• Wyoming Game and Fish Commission – Flaming Gorge Letter | CONTINGENT |

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability of the virus to spread from person to person, the Governor has implemented a number of Executive Orders directed at controlling spread of the virus by minimizing face-to-face interactions. Public gatherings are strongly discouraged by the CDC, State of Utah, and local health departments since they facilitate face-to-face contact and pose an elevated risk for virus transmission. The Division of Wildlife Resources and the chair of this public body have determined that public gathering at Regional Advisory Council and Wildlife Board meetings presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who attend—and will conduct this meeting using a fully electronic format. This meeting format is authorized by recent amendment to the Utah Code¹ and Executive Order by Utah Governor Gary Herbert²—and will be temporarily used in place of the in-person public meetings that usually occur around the state. Anyone wishing to comment on agenda topics in future meetings or to observe this meeting may do so by logging on to the Division’s webpage at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html> where instructions and links are provided.

¹ Utah Code Section 52-4-207(4).

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 2021 – Target Date – Updates in Hunting Technology

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at any new hunting technology since the last update to the Board, and report on it. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht
Assigned to: Justin Shannon/Covy Jones
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: August 27, 2020

Fall 2021 – Target Date – Resident Only permits for the Youth Elk hunt

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to review the possibility of youth any weapon elk tags going to residents only and bring back the information next year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Covy Jones/Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented November 2021
Placed on Action Log: December 3, 2020

Action Log Assignment

December 3, 2020

Chad Wilson – DWR and the CWMU Committee to put a presentation together educating the public on the benefits of the CWMU program.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 3, 2020, DNR Auditorium
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Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda for the December 3, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting.

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

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting.

3) Waterfowl Recommendations and R657-9 Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we deny any new blinds, allowing the existing 20 blinds to stay for 10 years, and, at the end of 10 years, be removed.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Karl Hirst, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's remaining recommendations as presented.

4) 2021 Big Game Seasons, Key Dates, Hunt Changes and Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and failed 4 – 2 with Donnie Hunter, Kevin Albrecht and Bret Selman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the season on Pine Valley, Virgin River and Pine Valley, Beaver Dam Desert Bighorn Sheep hunts by 7 days to stop the overlap with the General Season deer hunt. The 7 days would be removed from the start of the hunt date.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we ask Director Mike Fowlks to return to the January board meeting to be recognized for his career and retirement.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the general season elk spike hunt on the Book Cliffs units to 5 days.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we change the New Harmony extended archery deer dates to September 18 – October 15.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we do not approve the recommended age class on the Book Cliffs, Little Creek, and keep it at 7.5 – 8.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and failed 4 – 2, with Randy Dearth, Wade Heaton, Karl Hirst and Bret Selman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Central Mtns, Nebo age objective at its current objective of 6.5 – 7.

The following motion was made Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the new limited-entry hunts on the Cache, North, Oquirrh-Stansbury, West, Plateau, Barney Top/Kaiparowits, West Desert, Deep Creek and Box Elder, Pilot Mtn.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed 3 – 3, with Chairman Bateman breaking the tie. Kevin Albrecht, Wade Heaton and Bret Selman were opposed.

MOTION: I move that we move Nine Mile, Anthro to a limited-entry HAMS hunt instead of the recommended any bull elk unit.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed 5 – 1 with Randy Dearth opposed.

MOTION: I move that we discontinue the current limited-entry hunts on the Cache, North, Oquirrh-Stansbury, West, and West Desert, Deep Creek.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed 4 – 2 with Karl Hirst and Bret Selman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we change the Box Elder, Sawtooth, Oquirrh-Stansbury, East and Southwest Desert, North to a limited-entry HAMS hunt.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the boundary changes for Plateau, Boulder, Southwest Desert, South and Box Elder, Grouse Creek as presented, and that we do not split the Oquirrh-Stansbury into East and West.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Karl Hirst, and passed 5 – 1 with Randy Dearth opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the general season any bull permit quota to 17,500, and add unlimited youth permits that will not count towards the quota.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Karl Hirst, then amended by Wade Heaton and seconded by Bret Selman. The amendment to the motion passed 4 – 2 with Randy Dearth and Karl Hirst opposed. The motion then passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we extend the archery hunt on the any bull seasons by 9 days for the next two years until the elk committee reconvenes and then have them discuss it.

AMENDED MOTION: I move that we amend the motion from 9 days to 5 days.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to review the possibility of youth any weapon elk tags going to residents only, and to bring back the information next year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the pronghorn recommendations as presented.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion that we move the Henry Mtns hunter's choice archery hunt season dates to January.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the season dates for the Henry Mtns, hunter's choice archery hunt be set for January 18 – 31, 2021.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we continue the Desert Bighorn sheep archery hunt with the unit and dates determined by the Division, and to discontinue the Zion archery Bighorn sheep hunt.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Bret Selman, and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the archery Rocky Mtn. Bighorn sheep hunt on the Fillmore, Oak Creek.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we discontinue the Box Elder, Pilot Mtn. Rocky Mtn. Bighorn sheep hunt.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for the 2021 Big Game Seasons, Key Dates, Hunt Changes and Rule Amendments.

5) Deer Management Plans

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Karl Hirst, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we discuss the Deer Management Plans – Population Objective recommendations and Deer Management Plans – Unit Plan Revision Recommendations together.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Bret Selman, and passed 4 – 2 with Randy Dearth and Karl Hirst opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Deer Management Plans as presented, with the addition of Elk Ridge increasing from 1,000 to 2,000.

6) CWMU and Landowner 2021 Permit Recommendations (Action)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed 4 in favor with 2 recusals. Wade Heaton and Bret Selman declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves from a vote.

MOTION: I move that we accept the request for Cactus Buck permits on the Alton CWMU with the stipulation that the season date has a September 15, 2021 opening, the public tags are not sold and are allocated only to youth or hunters with disabilities.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the Division and the CWMU advisory council present to the Board a report on the current public lands located within the CWMU boundaries and the reasoning/justification for it.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed 4 in favor with 2 recusals. Wade Heaton and Bret Selman declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves from a vote.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the CWMU recommendations.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed 5 in favor and 1 excused. Karl Hirst was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION: I move that we approve the LOA permits at the 2020 allocations, with the exceptions of decreases due to decreases in public permits on a unit, and with the exception of LOAs that qualify under the new proposal for additional permits, keeping the proportions the same.

7) Conservation and Expo Permit Adjustments (Action)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed 5 in favor

with 1 excused. Karl Hirst was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

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

APPROVED

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 3, 2020, DNR Auditorium
Electronic Meeting
Attendance

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman – Chairman	Randy Dearth
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chairman	Wade Heaton
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Karl Hirst
	Donnie Hunter
	Bret Selman

RAC Chairs

Central – Brock McMillan
Southern – Brayden Richmond
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin
Northeastern – Brett Prevedel
Northern – Justin Oliver

Division Personnel

Ben Nadolski	James Christensen	Paul Gedge
Blair Stringham	Jason Vernon	Paul Washburn
Brayden Richmond	Justin Shannon	Riley Peck
Brian Steed	Kent Hersey	Rusty Robinson
Chad Wilson	Kevin Bunnell	Staci Coons
Covy Jones	Lindy Varney	Teresa Griffin
Dave Beveridge	Matt Briggs	Torrey Christopherson
Dax Magnus	Mike Christensen	Wyatt Bubak
Dennis Shumway	Mike Fowlks	
Greg Hansen	Miles Hanberg	
Guy Wallace	Paige Wiren	

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<https://youtu.be/8t7rVxnl3qE>

- 00:01:00** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order, read a public health order from the State of Utah regarding COVID-19 and public meetings, and took a roll call.
- 00:03:33** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda for the December 3, 2020 meeting.
- 00:04:10** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:04:35** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Vice-Chairman Albrecht asked the Division if there were any updates on the Board's request for a report on new hunting technology.
Lindy Varney gave a presentation on combining dedicated hunter and general-season deer applications.
- 00:12:49** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
On behalf of the Board, Chairman Bateman thanked Director Fowlks for his Division of Wildlife Resources career service.
Director Fowlks asked if the Board would consider restructuring the Big Game RAC and Wildlife Board meetings in the interest of making the meetings shorter in length and to allow the meeting participants to discuss the agenda items in greater depth. All board members and RAC chairs said that they would consider restructuring meetings.
Director Fowlks gave updates on Licensing, Habitat, Wildlife and Law Enforcement sections. The Director recognized the passing of former Division of Wildlife Resources Director Jim Karpowitz.
- 5) Waterfowl Recommendations and R657-9 Rule Amendments (Action)**
Blair Stringham gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.
- 00:29:09** **Public Comments**
Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

00:30:10 DWR Additional Information

DWR migratory game bird program coordinator, Blair Stringham, gave background information regarding the Division's recommendations.

00:31:56: Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked questions about the stipulations regarding waterfowl blind ownership and use, and who would be liable for maintaining the blinds. The Board asked if there were a date by which permits must be obtained for the existing blinds.

00:36:40 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the rule amendments with varying stipulations and opposition.

00:40:03 Board Discussion

The Board expressed concerns about safety and public competition for usage of the existing blinds. The Board suggested that a time limit could be placed on how long the existing blinds were allowed to remain in use after which the blinds would be dismantled. The Board voiced disapproval for the proposed retrieval zone recommendation.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we deny any new blinds, allowing the existing 20 blinds to stay for 10 years, and at the end of 10 years be removed.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Karl Hirst, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's remaining recommendations as presented.

6) 2021 Big Game Seasons, Key Dates, Hunt Changes and Rule Amendments (Action)

Covy Jones gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

00:47:24 Public Comments

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation. The Board expressed appreciation to the public for the volume of comments.

00:49:52 Board and RAC Questions and Discussion

The Board asked if the season dates of a specific proposed Bighorn sheep hunt that would overlap with a general season deer hunt in the same area could be modified. The RACs asked for clarification for the reason why the Bighorn sheep hunt dates would have to be modified. The Board commented on the benefits of not having overlapping Bighorn sheep and deer hunts.

The RACs expressed concern that this proposed date change had not gone through the public process. The Board acknowledged the challenges of the electronic public

process versus the in-person public process, and questioned the bias against public comments not heard by the RACs, but received by the Board directly from the public.

The RACs questioned the benefit of reducing the proposed Bighorn sheep hunt by 7 days.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and failed 4-2 with Donnie Hunter, Kevin Albrecht, Karl Hirst and Bret Selman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the season on Pine Valley, Virgin River, and Pine Valley, Beaver Dam Desert Bighorn Sheep hunts by 7 days to stop the overlap with the General Season deer hunt. The 7 days would be removed from the start of the hunt date.

01:06:30 Board Discussion

The Board discussed concerns about the potential or perceived negative impact that the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek spike bull elk hunt might have on the elk population in that area and suggested reducing the number of days in that hunt.

The DWR shared the biological data used to support the spike bull elk hunt recommendation.

01:12:46 Update

DNR Director Brian Steed joined the meeting to acknowledge DWR Director Mike Fowlks' retirement, and to announce that Rory Reynolds will serve as the interim division director.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we ask Director Mike Fowlks to return to the January board meeting to be recognized for his career and retirement.

01:18:13 Board/RAC Questions and Comments

The Board asked the DWR about cow elk tooth data and shortening the Book Cliffs spike bull elk hunt.

The RACs commented on a perception that the Book Cliffs elk population is performing poorly, and also reiterated regional motions.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the general season elk spike hunt on the Book Cliffs units to 5 days.

01:26:22 Board Questions and Comments

The Board had questions or comments about the new North Slope (early) any legal weapon hunt from October 13-17, 2021.

01:27:00 Board Questions and Comments

The Board asked for RAC summaries on the Division's deer recommendations.

01:28:13 RAC Summaries

All RACs accepted the recommended deer hunt season date changes as presented.

01:29:20 Board Clarification

The Board clarified that the previous motion applied to all three subunits in the Book Cliffs.

01:30:10 Board/RAC Discussion

The Board shared discussion from the Southern RAC about the New Harmony extended archery hunt season date changes. The Board expressed a concern that the length of the hunt was too long and that migrating deer were being negatively impacted.

The RACs expressed concern that the date changes passed in the previous motion had not gone through the public process, but that regions had received public comment about the New Harmony hunt.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we change the New Harmony extended archery deer dates to September 18 – October 15.

01:37:56 Board Discussion

The Board discussed concerns about the recommended change in the Book Cliffs elk population age objective. The Division provided additional background on the purpose of the recommendation.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we do not approve the recommended age class on the Book Cliffs, Little Creek, and keep it at 7.5-8.0.

01:45:06 Board Questions and Comments

There were no questions or comments from the Board about the Cache, Meadowville recommended age objectives.

01:45:33 Board/RAC Comments and Discussion

The Board recognized that the board member received public input that usually would be channeled to the elk committee. The Board expressed both a preference to keep the current Central Mountains, Nebo age objective so that hunters could continue to harvest high-quality bulls, and to accept the recommendation so that more people could take advantage of the hunt. The Board surmised that the wildfire in that area contributed to the quality of the bulls.

The RACs mentioned that elk collar data show that the same herd of elk move between the Central Mountains, Nebo and the Manti, but that those areas have different age objectives.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and failed 4-2 with Randy Dearth, Wade Heaton, Karl Hirst and Bret Selman opposed.

MOTION: I move that we keep the Central Mtns, Nebo age objective at its current objective of 6.5-7.0.

01:54:57 Board Questions and Comments

The Board asked a question about the length of the proposed new HAMS hunts. The Board asked the RAC chairs if there were any motions made on the proposed new limited-entry archery and HAMS hunts.

The Board expressed concern about both the length of the proposed new limited-entry hunts and reducing the number of days of the hunt too much.

The Board asked what dates the proposed new limited-entry hunts would overlap with general season dates.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the new limited-entry hunts on the Cache, North, Oquirrh-Stansbury, West, Plateau, Barney Top/Kaiparowits, West Desert, Deep Creek and Box Elder, Pilot Mtn.

02:03:27 Board/RAC Questions and Comments

The RACs commented on the public input regarding the discontinuation limited entry hunts. The Board expressed support for the Division's recommendations.

The Board asked what the current population is of the herds on the different units where the Division was recommending discontinuing where limited-entry hunts.

The Division provided some background for the recommendations, as well as population data.

The Board suggested making both the Nine Mile-Anthro and Southwest Desert, North units limited-entry HAMS hunts.

02:24:02 Board Discussion

The Board suggested that the quality of hunts that the Division recommended changes to is the reason for the recommendations, and suggested that the Box Elder, Sawtooth and Oquirrh-Stansbury, East units be HAMS hunts rather than the recommended general-season hunts. The Board expressed concern regarding finding a balance between limited-entry and general season hunts.

The Board asked the Division for clarification on the recommendations. The Board noted certain advantages that HAMS hunts could manifest.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth, and passed 3-3 with Chairman Bateman breaking the tie. Wade Heaton and Bret Selman were opposed.

MOTION: I move that we move Nine Mile, Anthro to a limited-entry HAMS hunt instead of the recommended any-bull elk hunt.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed 5-1 with Randy Dearth opposed.

MOTION: I move that we discontinue the limited-entry hunts on the Cache, North, Oquirrh-Stansbury, West and West Desert, Deep Creek.

02:39:40 Board Discussion

The Board expressed opposition to the recommendation to move the Box Elder, Sawtooth, Oquirrh-Stansbury, East and Southwest Desert, North units to general season elk hunts.

02:43:40 RAC Summaries

All RACs accepted the new general season elk hunt recommendations as presented.

02:46:50 Board/RAC Discussion

The Board brought attention to how decisions on new general season elk unit recommendations could affect permit numbers.

The RACs mentioned that they discussed new general season elk unit recommendations at length, and that they decided to accept the recommendations.

The Board noted that the elk committee did not have the opportunity to discuss public concerns with constituents, and commented on public input they received after the RAC meetings took place. The Board reflected on how permits might be allocated to provide the maximum amount of opportunity in HAMS hunts, and asked the Division for input on this idea.

The Board stated that creating new general season any-bull hunts could take some pressure off current bull elk hunts, and also articulated the merits of general season hunts. The Board suggested that HAMS hunts could be viewed as a hybrid of general season and limited entry hunts, and that HAMS hunts will address the problem of point creep. The Board recognized that limited entry and general season hunts use two different point systems, and also board members voiced differing opinions on the how many HAMS hunts should be approved.

03:04:07 RAC Summaries

All RACs accepted the boundary changes as presented.

03:05:08 Board Discussion and DWR Clarification

Since the Board voted to change the Oquirrh-Stansbury, East unit to a limited-entry HAMS hunt, the Division noted that it would not recommend the proposed Oquirrh-Stansbury, East boundary change because of access issues.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the boundary changes for Plateau, Boulder, Southwest Desert, South and Box Elder, Grouse Creek as presented, and that we do not split the Oquirrh-Stansbury into East and West.

03:08:59 Board/RAC Questions and Comments.

The Board asked for clarification on what was being voted on in the general season elk hunt recommendations, and noted that there were fewer permits available for sale this year.

The RACs commented on the change in permit numbers when the multi-season permits were introduced for sale, and suggested withdrawing the multi-season permits for adults, but leaving them for sale to youth hunters.

The Board asked how many any-bull youth permits were sold this past year.

03:14:07 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the with varying stipulations and opposition see December Board Packet Summary of Motions for specific motions and votes.

03:18:06 Board Questions

The Board asked how the quality of the any bull hunts would be affected by an increase of 17,500 permits, if the statewide elk plan could accommodate allocating 1,000 unlimited any bull permits to youth hunters and if the elk committee considered breaking up the general any weapon elk season structure into two seasons.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Karl Hirst, and passed 5-1 with Randy Dearth opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the general season any bull permit quota to 17,500 and add unlimited youth permits that will not count against the quota.

03:26:24 Board Comments

The Board noted that the Central RAC passed a motion to extend the any bull unit archery hunt date until the end of September, but also expressed concern that having the archery hunt overlap with the youth hunt season could have a negative impact on youth experience.

03:33:44 RAC Summaries

The Northern, Central, Southern and Southeastern RACs passed motions to extend the any bull archery hunt by 9 days. The Northeastern RAC passed a motion to maintain the current any bull archery hunt dates.

03:36:31 Board Comments

The Board voiced appreciation for public input about items discussed at RAC meetings that were received directly by the Board after regional meetings. The Board suggested extending the any bull archery hunt for two years, after which data collected from youth hunters would be presented to the elk committee to determine if the overlap in the archery hunt and youth hunt had negatively impacted the youth experience.

03:38:32 Board Discussion

The Board acknowledged the RAC chairs' concerns that this issue had not gone through the public RAC process, and argued that because of the circumstances of the virtual meetings format as required by public health safety concerns, it was difficult

for the public to submit input on issues. The Board further argued that the Board should act on issues that had not gone through the public process, but issues that the Board agreed had merit, specifically this issue of extending the archery hunt. The Board also suggested extending the archery hunt 5 days instead of 9 days. The Board noted that this archery hunt extension proposal had, indeed, been presented by a member of the public. The Board also discussed hunt dates related to anticipated dates of when elk are in the rut, and expressed concern about the overlap of archery hunters and youth rifle hunters being in the field at the same time. The Board asked if the youth hunt dates could be adjusted to try to resolve the overlap of archery and youth hunt dates.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Karl Hirst, then amended by Wade Heaton and seconded by Bret Selman. The amendment to the motion passed 4-2 with Randy Dearth and Karl Hirst opposed. The motion then passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we extend the archery hunt on the any bull seasons by 9 days for the next 2 years until the elk committee reconvenes and have them discuss it.

AMENDED MOTION: I move that we amend the motion from 9 days to 5 days.

03:48:35 Board Questions and Discussion

The Board asked what the ramifications would be if youth any weapon permits were allocated to residents only, and asked if, on an annual basis, all 50 non-resident youth permits were filled. The Board asked if board members and RAC chairs would consider allocating all youth any weapon permits to residents only. The Board asked if permit numbers could be discussed during the public process meetings in the spring, when permit numbers are agenda items. The Board also discussed the need to wait a year to act on this issue so that the permit allocation change proposal could move through the public process.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded Kevin Albrecht, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to review the possibility of youth any weapon elk tags going to residents only, and bring back the information next year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

04:05:42 BREAK

04:14:00 Board/RAC Discussion

The Board and RAC chairs discussed eliminating the multi-season elk permit.

04:20:48 Board Discussion

There was no discussion regarding the Division's pronghorn hunts recommendations.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the pronghorn recommendations as presented.

04:22:35 RAC Summaries

All RACs accepted the pronghorn hunt change recommendations as presented.

04:24:14 Board Discussion and Comments

The Board had no discussion about the proposed new bison hunt or the Nine Mile bison hunt boundary change.

04:25:35 Board Comments/Questions

The Board commented on the popularity of the recommended discontinued Henry Mtns. bison archery hunts, and suggested hunt date changes rather than discontinuing the hunts. The Board asked the Division for the historic data that influenced the recommendations, and commented on how the archery hunts affect the Division's harvest objectives. The Board asked about potential hunt date changes.

04:33:43 RAC Summaries

The Northern and Southeastern RACs passed a motion to move the bison archery hunts to January. The Central RAC passed a motion to move the bison archery hunts to January, or to before the rifle hunt. The Northeastern RAC did not discuss this issue.

04:35:11 Board Discussion/Questions

The Board noted the popularity of the Henry Mtns. archery hunts. The Board asked if the hunters choice bison hunt could take place at the same time as the bison cow hunt.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I make the motion that we move the Henry Mtns. hunters choice archery hunt season dates to January.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded Randy Dearth, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the season dates for the Henry Mtns. hunters choice archery hunt be set for January 18-31, 2021.

04:40:59 Board Questions/Comments

The Board expressed support for finding another Desert Bighorn sheep archery unit to balance the loss of the proposed discontinued Zion unit hunt. The Board asked if the Division had identified a unit that could replace the discontinued Zion unit, and what the dates of the Zion hunt were. The Board asked about the creation of a Desert Bighorn sheep archery hunt on the Dirty Devil unit.

04:45:43 RAC Summaries

The Northern RAC accepted the Desert Bighorn sheep archery hunt recommendation as presented. The remaining RACs passed a motion to maintain the archery hunt but on another unit as determined at the discretion of the Division.

04:47:25 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded Donnie Hunter, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we continue a Desert Bighorn sheep archery hunt with the unit and dates determined by the Division, and to discontinue the Zion archery Bighorn hunt.

04:49:25 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or the RACs about the Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep hunt recommendations.

04:49:53 RAC Summaries

All RACs accepted the Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep hunt recommendations as presented.

04:50:28 Board Discussion

There was no discussion from the Board on the Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep new and discontinued hunt recommendations.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded Bret Selman, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the archery Rocky Mtn. Bighorn sheep hunt on the Fillmore, Oak Creek.

04:51:18 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked why the Division recommended discontinuing the Box Elder, Pilot Mtn. Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep hunt.

04:52:21 Board Discussion

There was no discussion from the Board.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded Karl Hirst, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we discontinue the Box Elder, Pilot Mtn. Rocky Mtn. Bighorn sheep hunt.

04:53:06 Board/RAC Questions

Neither the Board nor the RACs had questions about the recommended Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep unit boundary changes.

04:54:57 Board Questions and Comments

The Board asked the Central RAC to explain the motion that RAC made regarding the proposed dedicated hunter rule change. The Board commented on the Central RAC's recommendation.

04:57:53 Board Discussion

There was no discussion from the Board.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for the 2021 Big Game Seasons, Key Dates, Hunt Changes and Rule Amendments.

7) Deer Management Plans – Population Objective Recommendations (Action)

Covy Jones gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

04:58:32 Public Comments

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentations.

04:58:57 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

04:59:13 RAC Summaries

The RACs gave summaries on each region's deer management plan population objectives.

05:01:21 Board/RAC Comments

The Board noted that the Division makes recommendations based on what the agency thinks is attainable. The RACs and the Board commented on the Southeastern Regional San Juan, Elk Ridge unit population objective recommendation.

05:06:16 Division Clarification

The Division stated the population objective goal for the San Juan, Elk Ridge unit.

05:08:07 Board Questions

The Board asked the Division about projects on the Elk Ridge unit, and if chronic wasting disease was a problem in that deer population.

05:12:15 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the Southern and Southeastern deer management plan population objectives with varying dissent and stipulations.

05:15:16 Clarification

The Division clarified the structure for the discussion of topics and issues.

05:16:36 Board Discussion

The Board suggested discussing agenda items 7—Deer Management Plans-Population Objective Recommendations--and 8--Deer Management Plans-Unit Plan Revision Recommendations--at the same time.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded Karl Hirst, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we discuss Deer Management Plans-Population Objective Recommendations ad Deer Management Plans-Unit Plan Revision

Recommendations together.

8) Deer Management Plans-Unit Plan Revision Recommendations (Action)

Covy Jones and regional wildlife program managers gave pre-recorded online presentations that were posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

05:18:01 Clarification

The Division further clarified the goal of the Elk Ridge population objective.

05:19:23 Board Discussion

The Board voiced that it supported the recommendations for the Southern region plan. The Board discussed modifying the Elk Ridge population objective, but also was concerned about modifying the objective based on a social perspective.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Bret Selman, and passed 4-2 with Randy Dearth and Karl Hirst opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Deer Management Plans as presented with the addition of Elk Ridge increasing from 1,000 to 2,000.

9) CWMU and Landowner 2021 Permit Recommendations (Action)

Chad Wilson gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

05:25:58 Public Comments

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

05:27:44 Board Questions

The Board asked to discuss the landowner association issues separately from the CWMU owner/operator issues. Wade Heaton and Bret Selman declared a conflict of interest in voting on CWMU motions.

05:29:17 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the CWMU permit recommendations with varying dissent and stipulations.

05:36:36 Board Discussion and Questions

The Board discussed the topic of public lands within CWMUs. The Board also presented the argument for requesting the cactus buck hunt. The Board suggested discussing the Alton CWMU permits separately from the other CWMUs. The Board expressed support for the Alton CWMU cactus buck hunt. The Board asked the Division how harvested cactus bucks would be managed.

05:48:54 Clarification

The Division clarified the number of permits that would be issued for the Alton CWMU hunt.

05:50:00 The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded Donnie Hunter, and passed 4

in favor with 2 recusals. Wade Heaton and Bret Selman declared a conflict of interest and recused themselves from the vote.

MOTION: I move that we accept the request for Cactus Buck permits on the Alton CWMU with the stipulations that the season date has a September 15th opening, the public tags are not sold and are allocated to youth or disabled only.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded Wade Heaton, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the Division and the CWMU advisory committee present to the Board a report on the current public lands located within CWMU boundaries and the reasoning/justification for it.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded Donnie Hunter, and passed 4 in favor with 2 recusals. Wade Heaton and Bred Selman recused themselves from the vote.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the CWMU recommendations.

05:54:55 RAC/Board Comments

The Northern RAC chair commented on public perception of the CWMU program and suggested that emphasis be placed on educating the public on the program. The Board expressed support for this suggestion.

06:00:52 Board Questions

There were no questions from the Board.

06:01:13 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the LOA permit recommendations with varying dissent and stipulations.

06:07:08 Board Questions and Comments

The Board asked the Division to explain how percentage of use is calculated. The Board expressed concern about the efficacy of the LOA program. The Board advocated for a formula-based approach to LOA permit allocations, and stressed the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners. The Board suggested approving the 2020 permit numbers and then proposed discussing in the future how the program could be modified.

06:18:30 Clarification

The Division explained the function that Certificates of Registration (COR) have in the LOA program.

06:19:18 Board/RAC Discussion and Questions

The Board advocated for a change to the LOA program. The Board asked the Division if it could present program alternative ideas at the spring board meeting, but also proposed making changes through a process that would allow input from all involved parties. The RACs asked a question about, and the Board discussed waivers.

The Board discussed a Diamond Mountain landowners association variance, but agreed not to address the variance request. The Board asked the Division about a program revision timeline. The Division recognized the procedural difference between making rule amendments versus making decisions on permit numbers.

The Board asked if the Division were willing to consider amending the LOA rule. The Board suggested that there are ways to amend the LOA rule that would benefit both the landowner and the public. The Division provided additional input on permit allocation recommendations.

The Division asked for clarification on the motion. The Board asked for clarification on, and discussed the method used to determine permit allocations. The Board asked about the relationship between public permit cuts and LOA permit allocations.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Donnie Hunter, and passed 5 in favor with 1 excused. Karl Hirst was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION: I move that we approve the LOA permits at the 202 allocations, with the exceptions of decreases due to decreases in public permits on a unit, and with the exception of LOAs that qualify under the new proposal for additional permits, keeping the proportions the same.

06:48:11 Board Comments

The Board commented that typically the variance comes before the board as a separate item, and that it was passed this year with the motion that was just made.

10) Conservation and Expo Permit Adjustments

Covy Jones gave a presentation on Conservation and Expo permits adjustments.

06:56:52 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or the RACs.

06:57:08 Board Discussion

There was no Board discussion.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton, and passed 5 in favor with 1 excused. Karl Hirst was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

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

06:57:50 12) Other Business (Contingent)

The Board proposed scheduling a meeting with Wyoming Game and Fish to discuss Flaming Gorge fishing license reciprocity.

07:02:26 Meeting adjourned.