Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 6, 2012, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

Wednesday, June 6, 2012 – 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**
   – Alan Clark, DWR Assistant Director

5. Board Variance Requests **ACTION**
   - Judi Tutorow, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

6. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41 **ACTION**
   - Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief

7. Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03 **ACTION**
   - Krissy Wilson, Aquatics Wildlife Coordinator

8. Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57 **ACTION**
   - Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief

9. Deer Management Plans **ACTION**
   - Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Manager

10. Elk Management Plans **ACTION**
    - Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Manager

11. Ferron Creek Introduction **ACTION**
    - Justin Hart, Wildlife Program Coordinator

12. Hunting Closure Proposal – **Northern Region** **ACTION**
    - Brent Poll, Landowner

13. South Jordan Hunting in City Limits Proposal **ACTION**
    - Ryan Loose, Assistant City Attorney

14. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
    – Del Brady, 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.

ACTION LOG
Wildlife Board Motions

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

Fall 2012 – Target Date – Nine Mile Range Creek

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to report back on the Nine Mile Range Creek change to any bull relative to all issues of hunting, including trespass, harvest, and hunter satisfaction.

Assigned to: Anis Aoude
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: December 1, 2011

Fall 2013 – Target Date – Premium Limited-entry deer tags

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into a premium limited entry deer tag similar to the premium limited entry elk tag.

Assigned to: Anis Aoude
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 3, 2012

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Hunting Turkeys with Falcons

MOTION: I move that we put the hunting turkeys with falcons proposal on the action log for consideration when the Upland Game Guidebook comes up for review.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: June 9, 2011

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Additional Benefits for Limited-Entry turkey tag holders

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into the possibility and feasibility of a limited entry turkey permit holder who is unsuccessful to turn in their limited entry tag and purchase a general season tag.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 3, 2012

Fall 2014 – Target Date – Management Buck Tags on the Book Cliffs

MOTION: I move that the Division be asked to review the buck management tags on the Book Cliffs. People are always reporting the presence of big two and three point bucks in that area. Perhaps these permits could be given to youth. This is to be addressed during the revision of the Deer Management Plan in 2014.

Assigned to: Anis Aoude
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: December 1, 2011

On going – Target Date - Multi year guidebooks and rules

MOTION: We ask that the Division look toward multi year guidebooks and rules and that they present a plan on how that multi year guidebook and rule will work as each is presented.

Assigned to: Staci Coons
Action: Under Study
Status: Wildlife Board Updated – January 12, 2012
Placed on Action Log: August 20, 2009

Utah Wildlife Board Work Session
May 2, 2012, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/12-05-02.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present
Del Brady – Chair
Ernie Perkins – Vice Chair
Jim Karpowitz – Exec Sec
Jake Albrecht
Calvin Crandall
Mike King
John Bair
Bill Fenimore

Division Personnel Present

Anis Aoude	Kent Hersey
Kevin Bunnell	Judi Tutorow
Staci Coons	Tony Wood
Martin Bushman	Lacey Welch
LuAnn Petrovich	Greg Sheehan
Amy Canning	Karen Caldwell
Bryan Christensen	Kenny Johnson
Cindee Jensen	Lindy Varney

Wednesday, May 02, 2012, 1:00 pm

1) Approval of Agenda (Action) **0:00:00 to 0:0:24 of 3:24:22**

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

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

2) Update – Jim Karpowitz (Informational) **0:00:24 to 0:28:41 of 3:24:22**

Director Karpowitz discussed spring fishing, the coyote program and the upcoming open houses, and weather conditions that will probably lead to a fire and drought year. He then took questions. He gave some information on Gunnison sage-grouse and Mexican wolves.

3) Review of RAC Agenda Items (Informational) **0:28:41 to 2:33:27 of 3:24:22**

Anis Aoude reviewed the RAC motions per the Board's request, gave explanations and entertained questions and discussion. (See Summary of Motions)

4) Variance rule Discussion (Informational) **2:33:27 to 3:18:57 of 3:24:22**

Greg Sheehan lead the discussion on the proposed amendments to rule R657-57 (See Attachment #1)

5) Other Business (Informational) **3:18:57 to 3:24:22 of 3:24:22**

John Bair lead the discussion on Wildlife Board Member participation during RAC meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 3, 2012, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Wildlife Board Members Present
Del Brady – Chair
Ernie Perkins – Vice Chair
Jim Karpowitz – Exec Sec
Jake Albrecht
Bill Fenimore
Calvin Crandall
John Bair
Mike King

RAC Chairs Present
Central – Fred Oswald
Southern – Steve Flinders
Southeastern – Derris Jones
Northern – Robert Byrnes
Northeastern – Floyd Briggs

Public Present
Byron Bateman
Reed Price
Clinton Martinez
Troy Justensen
Lee Tracy
Ryan Foutz
Lee Howard
Don Peay
Mike Christensen
Tye Boulter
Brett Prettyman

Division Personnel Present
Anis Aoude
Justin Shannon
Cindee Jensen
Staci Coons
Greg Sheehan
LuAnn Petrovich
Kevin Bunnell
Judi Tutorow
Bill Bates
Boyde Blackwell
John Fairchild
Teresa Griffin
Randy Wood
Dana Dolsen
Justin Dolling
Miles Hamberg

1) Approval of Agenda (Action)

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

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

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

2) Approval of Minutes (Action)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the March 29, 2012 Wildlife Board Work Session as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)

Ernie Perkins, Vice Chair presented this agenda item. He said the first item on the action log, Flexible General Season Deer Unit, Buck/Doe ratio proposal will happen today. The next current action item will be this fall on Nine Mile Range Creek.

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

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into a premium limited entry deer tag similar to the premium limited entry elk tag.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 4 to 1 with Jake Albrecht opposed.

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into the possibility and feasibility of a limited entry turkey permit holder who is unsuccessful to turn in their limited entry tag and purchase a general season tag.

The rationale is that in some years the limited entry hunters never really get a season because they can't get to where they have to hunt, due to snow and so forth.

4) DWR Update (Information)

Jim Karpowitz, DWR Director presented the update. We have a new regional supervisor in Southern region, Bruce Bonebrake. Spring fishing is in full swing and is very good around the state. They encourage the public to get out and enjoy the great fishing. Early spring is going to bring other problems. We've had several fires around the state already. We expect a fairly active fire season coming up. We could possibly be dealing with some drought conditions later in the summer. Most of the reservoirs are full around the state, but there will probably be problems with water shortages by the end of the summer.

On the coyote money that was appropriated by the legislature there have been lots of questions coming in. There is information on the website. We are asking people to be patient because we won't even have the money until July 1. We are glad to have additional money to do more control work on coyotes, outlining a multifaceted program in dealing with coyotes that are causing problems for our deer herds. There is a lot of talk about a $50 bounty program for people to help kill coyotes. These people have to be willing to take coyotes in deer areas in targeted populations for it to do any good. They

have been working with sportsmen and the legislature this past year in preparation for this. They will put out this program in the next month or so. There will probably be some sort of season for coyote removal. It is most effective if we can do it late winter and early spring.

There have been questions about wolves and what do we have in the Diamond Fork/Strawberry area. We still don't know. We have some pictures of some animals that are obviously not coyotes, but not wolves either. We do not have any definitive answers. One of our biologists saw one of these animals and got it to howl. We are looking to capture, test and radio collar these animals as soon as we can.

Mr. Perkins asked about sage grouse.

Director Karpowitz said the committee that has been charged by the Governor to develop a state plan for sage grouse in Utah is meeting today. We are all working for the same objective which is to keep sage grouse from being listed under the ESA. We are optimistic that this committee will be able to put together a plan to avoid listing. Alan Clark is our representative on that committee. Jason Robinson our Upland Game Coordinator is a technical advisor to that committee.

The decision on Gunnison sage grouse which are found in San Juan and Grande counties is due out soon. We don't know where it will go. There is a lot of talk that they will get listed regardless of what happens with Greater sage grouse.

Mr. Albrecht asked if there is a replacement for the CWMU Coordinator.

Mr. Bunnell said they will have that person by the end of the day.

Director Karpowitz said the new Waterfowl Coordinator is Blair Stringham from Southern region.

Chairman Brady explained the protocol for public comment.

5) Deer Management Plan Amendment and General Season Deer Permit (Action)

Anis Aoude, Big Game Coordinator presented this agenda item. (See Powerpoint Presentation) He covered deer permits first with illustrations on general season buck harvest 2001-2011, fawn production trends 1998-2011 and buck:doe ratio trends 1998-2011. The Wildlife Board gave direction to recommend different buck to doe ratios on different general season units which requires amending the statewide plan. The Division recommends a two tier approach, 15-17 bucks/100 does and 18-20 bucks/100 does. After they came up with the two tier approach they had the regional managers hold open houses and get some feedback from the public and make them aware. He then went over GS buck to doe recommended objectives and permit number recommendations. Tables with all deer units were presented with recommended objective, 3 year average and

recommended permit numbers. All weapon types have to choose a unit and a split was set up to give enough rifle permits, but also put some of the permits into weapon types that would be a little less successful and allow to increase permits slightly. The division is proposing the same split for general season as for limited entry units, which is 60/20/20. He went over the weapon types and permit numbers in each.

Mr. Perkins pointed out the decrease of about 17,000 that would occur if the split is not adjusted.

Mr. Aoude then went over what the recommendation would look like if they did not make any changes, leaving the statewide plan as it stands.

Mr. Aoude went over some things that came through the RAC process that could be accepted if the Board wants to go that way. One of them came from the Southeastern RAC. They voted for two units to be in the 18-20 range. We felt if one were to be accepted it would be the San Juan, changing it to 18-20. It would mean a 400 permit reduction. This concluded the presentation.

Mr. Albrecht asked about the slide that shows fawn production statewide. Is there a breakdown of region, or unit by unit? Could we show that at a future meeting?

Mr. Aoude said they have that information and could show it for something specific, but there is not a way they could show all the data that they collect on every unit.

Mr. Albrecht asked what about a region breakdown.

Mr. Aoude said they could do that.

Mr. Crandall asked when they count the fawns as part of the classification.

Mr. Aoude said the classification takes place in November/December, so that's when they're considered, usually about six months old.

Director Karpowitz said what that slide doesn't show is over winter survival of fawns and this past winter survival is exceptionally high.

Mr. Crandall asked if they know how many fawns die during the period from birth to six months, when they do the count.

Mr. Aoude said on the Monroe, the study shows that pregnancy in mule deer is very high, 98-99%. Almost all of them will have a fawn, but many will be stillborn if conditions are not right. Of those that survive, many won't make it to two weeks due to many reasons, predation, disease and other things. If they make it to one month old, they usually make it to six months old.

Chairman Brady asked on the weapon split. Last year the muzzleloader was 13,000 and it is going to take the big jump this year. Do you expect them to be sold out or rolled over into the rifle?

Mr. Aoude said he thinks most of the muzzleloader hunts will sell out. That is not one we're worried about because the success rates are similar, but he believes it is a nicer time of year to be out and they will probably sell out. It is a lot easier to go from being a rifle hunter to a muzzleloader hunter, because it is a similar weapon.

Mr. Albrecht said in the Southern RAC there was a motion for those units to go to 20-25. What would be the decrease on the permit numbers there?

Mr. Aoude said it would not be a great decrease because these units are unique and the reason they are above objective is because of unique situations. Basically many of them are above 18 or 20 because they are hard to hunt, private land or they used to be limited entry. We as a Division didn't recommend more permits on them, although we could have. Really the change in the number of permits is only about 200, but opening up that third tier would require us to have it and then other units could go into it, greatly reducing the number of permits on a statewide basis.

Mr. Perkins asked about the San Juan and their local meeting. There appeared to be a lot of confusion over what SFW's position was.

Mr. Aoude said they met with the local reps and all the groups. They tended to want a 15-17 split The motion at the RAC meeting was to go to18-20 from another representative in that area. There are differences in what people want. At the initial outreach, they wanted 15-17, but it didn't bear out.

Mr. Bates said the meeting down in Moab where we met with representatives unanimously wanted 15-17, however at the RAC meeting there was one SFW member that said they hadn't asked him and then he made the motion for 18-20 and the RAC went with it.

Mr. Aoude said as a Division we weighed the options. We could go18-20 without a great reduction in permits.

Mr. Fenimore asked about the La Sals being a CWD area. Is it risky to have that many more bucks in that type of area?

Mr. Aoude said that's another reason we would rather keep it at 15-17. CWD tends to be more prevalent in the older bucks and it spreads more quickly.

Director Karpowitz said we found our first positive CWD deer on the San Juan Unit last fall.

Chairman Brady asked if there were any questions from the RAC Chairs or audience.

Lee Howard asked how dedicated hunter and lifetime is going to affect deer permit numbers.

Mr. Aoude said they modified the lifetime license and dedicated hunter program rules to deal with that. Once we move through the next 2 years, dedicated hunters will be limited to 15% of any unit and lifetime license holders will still be able to choose a unit. If we see some issues with that, we can deal with it by limiting them as well. For the next 2 years those currently in the program can pick a unit, but once we work through the leftover dedicated hunters in the next 2 years and they transition to the new program, there will be no more that 15% dedicated hunters on any given unit.

Kent Strong said the success of doe getting pregnant is pretty high. If the doe cycle through a few times and then get pregnant late, how does it affect the late fawns in getting through a normal winter?

Mr. Aoude said there is no evidence that what was just described is taking place. Does most often cycle the first time and get pregnant if conditions are right. Usually it's yearlings or two year olds that don't cycle the first time but do the second time and that is usually due to nutrition issues. Research shows there is usually not a 2nd and 3rd cycle. Hopefully the study on the Monroe will show us when the peak of birth is. Presently the literature does not show that as a problem.

Ty Boulter asked if there is a direct correlation between fawn recruitment and buck/doe ratios.

Mr. Aoude said at the levels we carry buck to does, there is really no correlation. It is more nutrition driven than the number of bucks that are on the landscape. On the Monroe we captured 69 does with 11 bucks per 100 does, and 68 were pregnant. The problem is with fawn survival from birth to 6 months.

RAC Recommendations

Northern – Mr. Byrnes said they had two motions. Motion: To have a statewide 15-17 buck/doe ratio – failed for lack of a second. Motion: To approve as presented, passed 8 to1.

Northeastern – Mr. Briggs said after discussion with the sportsmen's group, it was unanimous to manage 18-20 buck doe ratio statewide, passed 5 to 3.

Central – Mr. Oswald said 11 of 13 RAC members were present. The new facility they meet in is the Springville Library. It is a wonderful facility and is going to work out well for them. Three Wildlife Board members attended their RAC meeting. He thanked Mr. Perkins, Mr. Fenimore and Mr. Bair for their attendance. On this action item they had good discussion and lots of questions. They voted 7 to 3 to accept as presented.

Mr. Perkins said it was a pleasure to be at that RAC meeting. They have a great sound system and the audience seemed very happy and comfortable.

Southeastern – Mr. Bates said they had good attendance. Motion: To accept the proposal with exception of buck/doe ratio on the Manti, San Rafael and San Juan Units be changed from 15-17 to 18-20 buck/doe ratio and it passed 8 to 1.

Southern – Ms. Griffin said they had a great deal of discussion and input. They accepted the proposal as presented and then it was amended. Motion: To create a 3rd tier of 20-25 buck/doe ratio including those units which already fell within that, Zion, Southwest Desert, Plateau Thousand Lakes and Fillmore/Oakcreek. The vote was a tie and it passed with the vote of the Chair. Motion: To omit option of unsold permits to roll over from one weapon type to the next and it passed 8 to 4. Motion: To accept the original motion and it passed 10 to 2. Motion: To accept general season deer permit numbers as presented and it passed 11 to 1.

Public Comment

Email from Ben Lowder UBA – Director Karpowitz read it into record. UBA applauds the efforts of the Wildlife Board and the DWR in their efforts to restructure the general season buck/doe ratios. They have seen over the past few years the split in Utah hunters between trophy quality units verses more opportunity units. It is important that the top end of the buck/doe ratio be lowered to a more manageable level as is recommended by DWR. They support the DWR recommendation.

Mike Christensen said he was a member of the Mule Deer Committee. He wants to give the Board some background on why the buck/doe ratio is in the range it is. Back in 2008, they looked at unit by unit and regional management. They went with regional management. There were some units that if they had a banner year, their ratio could sky rocket and in turn raise the ratio for the whole region. To alleviate that, they raised it from 15-25. It created a scenario where they wouldn't see any tag increases which could then be placed on units in the region that might be struggling. When they went to unit by unit, there was not a reason to have the high 25 number. He would like to see the recommendation go back to right around 15-20. 25 is too high and this was only done in an attempt to protect lower end areas on regional management units.

Ty Boulter – United Wildlife Cooperative, said they have seen a steady trend in the decrease of hunters. If we are cutting people out of our sport, that will eventually fast track us to basic extinction. He sees that as inevitable. Interest is lacking and opposition is curbing hunting. If recommendations do not help wildlife, but just cuts our constituents out of it we are making a mistake. He thanked the Board, RACs and DWR and he supports their recommendations.

Lee Tracy, representing himself said he is from Southern Utah and was at the RAC meeting. His concern with the 3rd tier is it might establish a precedent of just slipping

units into it, instead of decreasing tags and putting it back into its assigned tier, as well as 25 really is limited entry buck/doe ratio. He appreciates the RACs and Wildlife Board and feels we should stick with the buck/doe ratios as outlined by the DWR.

Byron Bateman, SFW thanked the Wildlife Board. Their members are split on this issue so their fulfillment committee voted to go with the Division's recommendations. Different recommendations have been coming from different parts of the state and they need to be considered. Last year we went to 30 units and it was a major change. There are lots of things in the works to help our deer herds including the coyote money and the Monroe study. They are looking to transplant some does from the Parowan Front to find out survivability. We are getting closer to where we want to be and we want to maintain our deer herd populations. The SFW Fulfillment Board supports the Division's recommendation. Please look at the recommendations out of the regions and really evaluate them and make the best decision possible.

Derris Jones said since the RAC meeting he's had several calls from people concerned that if the Abajo/San Juan Unit changes and the La Sal stays as recommended, it will cause some problems with the locals never being able to draw tags in that area. The La Sals and the Abajos really need to be managed together as comparable units.
Mr. Perkins asked how many inputs he has had on that.

Mr. Jones said on buck/doe ratios it is polarized, equally going each way. The opportunity hunters want to keep the ratios lower and the quality hunters want them higher, but they all seem to come together on this concern on the Abajos and La Sals. Those units are very popular with Wasatch Front hunters.

Board Discussion

Chairman Brady summarized the RAC recommendations.

Mr. King asked about the San Juan unit. Are they changing their recommendation?

Mr. Aoude said they didn't want to make a change in recommendation, but wanted to recognize that this did come up and they are willing to change it. It is a social issue. We would lose 400 permits.

Mr. King asked if there is support for the 18-20.

Director Karpowitz said they haven't changed their recommendation, but if the Board decides to go that way it would be ok. We have real concerns with the Manti, and not as many with the San Juan.

Chairman Brady summarized the RAC recommendations.

Mr. Albrecht complimented Mr. Aoude on his RAC presentation in Southern region. The discussion to create a 3rd tier, buck/doe ratio 20-25, was voted on and passed there. He

then read from the RAC minutes, p. 42. It was a tie of 6 to 6. Mr. Flinders voted to pass the motion because of support from public on that issue. There was a large turn out that supported that additional tier.

Mr. Crandall asked if that 3rd tier is created is that going to cause problems down the road. Will it open the door for those with their pet projects, or special areas that they want in the 3rd tier?

Director Karpowitz said it is actually a 5th tier and it will overlap with tier 2 and 4. There's not that much difference in permit numbers so he doesn't see the reason to do it. There should be a distinction between general season and limited entry and not a continuum there. It is so close to limited entry, we might look at those units relative to that.

Mr. Crandall said he is inclined to oppose the 3rd tier and manage it in the 18-20, still maintaining some good hunts there.

Mr. Perkins said those units have high buck/doe ratios due to other reasons. We have four private land units in Northern region that are similar to the Zion Unit. Those have a three year average buck/doe ratio of 32 bucks per 100 does. It doesn't matter what we say the ratios should be, they're going to stay right where they're at. With the comparability, those are going to be 18-20 buck/doe ratio units and it doesn't matter what objective we set when it's another factor that controls the buck/doe ratio.

Mr. Bair asked how that ratio will affect the permit numbers.

Mr. Aoude said a 200 permit reduction because we've already taken a lot of the other stuff into consideration. Our concern is if you make that tier there's a chance of others wanting to go to that.

Mr. Albrecht said he is glad to be getting started on the unit by unit. A few years when we voted to go to 18-25, he tried to amend his motion to give the Division some flexibility to look at some things, but we weren't able to do it at that time. It comes back today, through the RAC process that the majority is happy with the Division's recommendations with the exception of a couple of items. He feels he should make the motion for his region for the 3rd tier, 20-24 for those four units.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht, seconded by John Bair and failed 4 to 2 with Jake Albrecht and John Bair in favor.

MOTION: I move that we establish a buck:doe ratio of 20-24 on Zion; Southwest Desert; Plateau, Thousand Lakes; Fillmore, Oak Creek Units.

Mr. Flinders said folks felt strongly about not back tracking on these units that are already in this area, given the low numbers of deer in the area and the limited number of bucks.

Mr. Bair seconded the motion to bring it to a vote to recognize the RAC's concern on this issue.

Chairman Brady said they'd now look at Southern RAC's motion to omit the leftover permits from rolling over from one weapon type to another. There was no discussion so the issue died. Next they'd look at considering the San Juan, Manti/San Rafael at the 18/20 buck doe ratio from the Southeast RAC.

Mr. Bair said all those he knows in Southeast region, the Manti people feel strongly and on the San Juan, there are varying opinions. There are benefits in the San Juan and La Sals staying the same. The Manti is more of a challenge in keeping a high buck/doe ratio. As much as he'd like to see Central region having a unit with a higher buck/doe ratio, he's not sure what we'd be giving up in opportunity to get that unit to 19 and keep it there. The trade off might not be worth it.

Mr. Crandall asked what the La Sal is at now.

Mr. Aoude said they are recommending 15-17. The issues are with the locals having a harder time drawing.

Mr. King said there is an issue with CWD on the La Sals, is that correct? What kind of trigger is there with the CWD?

Mr. Aoude said that is part of the issue. The trigger becomes important once you see a prevalence rate increasing. With only one case it is hard to calculate a prevalence rate. Even on the La Sal it is fairly low. It is hard to say and it may have been an isolated incident. If we start picking them up more on the San Juan, then it would enter in.

Mr. Albrecht asked Mr. Bair what he is hearing. Do they say they want it at 15-17?

Mr. Bair said it is about a 50/50 split on what he is hearing. He's not sure what to do.

Mr. King said that's the same thing he is hearing.

Mr. Albrecht said he's been getting calls on 18-20 and hasn't had any on the 15-17.

Chairman Brady said Northeast region proposed 18-20 buck/doe ratio, statewide. He said only one unit in Northeast would be other than 18-20 and that is South Slope Vernal, which is 15 bucks per 100 does. Going to 19 would be nearly a 40% increase. Next we need to consider a motion for the balance of the recommendations.

Mr. Bair said if we had a few more years of data on this program, we'd have more to talk about. He hopes if there are units that people want different this year, there will be time in the future to make adjustments.

Mr. Perkins said we have a responsibility to provide information back to the RACs. Four out of five RACs supported the DWR two tier concept and more than three quarters of RAC members supported it. The individual units like the San Juan and the Manti have hugely divided opinion.

Mr. Fenimore agrees with Mr. Bair in that shifts might be made in the future after we see how things work out. He would prefer to error on the side of opportunity relative to the San Juan.

Mr. Albrecht said he thinks the Division has done a good job. There will always be those who want something else, but a few years down the road we'll have more information.

Chairman Brady said when we went to unit by unit, it was to focus more on individual deer units. The RACs and the public have put their comments in and we need to recognize and be respectful of that. If he had a favorite he'd probably go along with Southern on those four units, especially Southwest Desert. Those units are probably going to stay at the buck/doe ratios where they're at no matter what our vote today is. The Deer Management Plan will come up for review in 2013.

Mr. Aoude said we hope to get at least two years data before we open it up so it may go into 2014.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Deer Management Plan as presented including all general season buck deer permit numbers.

Mr. King said when the Board makes decisions contrary to the RACs, how do we justify it to them?

Director Karpowitz said the decision was made to refer the RACs to the Wildlife Board meeting minutes and that would be the written response.

Mr. Oswald said 9 months ago, the Board asked the RAC Chairman to report back to the RACs relative to these issues and what discussion takes place at the Wildlife Board meetings.

Chairman Brady thanked the RAC Chairs.

6) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations and Rule (Action)

Mr. Aoude presented these recommendations. He talked about how we manage premium limited entry deer units, specifically the Henry Mountains and the Paunsaugunt units. (See Powerpoint Presentation) They are recommending four additional permits on the Henry's and the permits will remain the same on the Paunsaugunt. On management buck

deer permits, 30 on Henry's and 50 on the Paunsaugunt were recommended. Limited entry deer units 2009-2011 post-season buck to doe ratio and permit recommendations were covered. They didn't increase permits on many units and the total number was 986 last year and shows a decline to 967. The reason for that is there used to be an additional limited entry unit, Thousand Lakes that was removed and now is general season.

Mr. Aoude then went on to present 2012 general season and limited entry elk permit recommendations. He discussed spike permits, general any bull including youth permits and then presented permit recommendations for limited entry in each age class relative to the objective on the various units.

Mr. Albrecht asked what the success rate is on the 4.5- 5 year old.

Mr. Aoude said he doesn't have that information with him, but he would guess 60-70%. He then went on to present pronghorn permit numbers for 2012 then OIAL permits.

Mr. Bair asked what is happening with the moose.

Mr. Aoude said there are a variety of reasons such as diseases and habitat. They are initiating a study to look at that.

Mr. Perkins asked if the moose decline is happening west wide.

Mr. Aoude said yes. Some relate it to wolves moving onto the landscape, but there are many things going on. They are recommending a reduction in moose permits. They are collaborating research with the surrounding states. He then went over bison, Desert bighorn, Rocky Mountain bighorn and Rocky Mountain goat permit recommendations.

Mr. Bair asked about the Uintah units and Rocky Mountain goats. Is there any increase there?

Mr. Aoude said the numbers haven't necessarily changed, but the population seems to be shifting westward.

Mr. Perkins asked about the expansion of goats out of the Willard area. When are we going to see populations building up?

Mr. Aoude said that is an interesting thing, not just on the Willard, but on the Tusher's also, like down on the Monroe and the Dutton. Whenever you get goat populations exceeding what their area will carry, they start to make forays into near by habitat. Usually it's the younger animals that start that. We are working on the statewide goat plan and hope to have some transplant sites in place where we can start some populations and not just let them get there on their own. We will consider where we have good habitat and put them places where they'll do well. He then went over the recommended rule changes. (See Powerpoint)

Mr. Aoude also covered recommendations that came from the RAC meetings and the Division's response to each. The Division feels these are acceptable changes. Southern - Reduce the Mt. Dutton limited entry elk permits to110 from 147. Reducing the Central Mtns Manti limited entry elk permits – Southeastern wanted to go to 360 and Central wanted to go with the status quo which is 452. The Division could go with either of those or a compromise. We'll leave that up to the Board. The Bookcliffs was voted on in the Northeastern region – Reduce the permits to 130 from the Division's 153. That would also be acceptable to the Division.

Mr. Bair asked about the low success rate on the spike hunt.

Mr. Aoude said usually it is about 16-18%. It might be because people are going into new areas since we opened up statewide so recently.

Mr. Bair asked if we know statewide how many spikes are surviving the hunt.

Mr. Aoude said 40-50% of them are surviving. As they learn that they are being hunted, they get better at evading hunters.

Mr. Bair asked how many bulls are on the Wasatch.

Mr. Aoude said we do a winter count and it always under estimates the number of bulls, because they're not as available to count and they winter in smaller groups. He can have someone look it up. He would guess it's around 1,500-2,000.

Mr. Albrecht said on the tracking issue with a dog. If someone has a permit for a spike or some other type of animal and they have their dogs with them. Is there going to be problems with being illegal?

Mr. Aoude said even during the deer or elk hunt there are some upland game hunts going on where hunters are using dogs, but for blood trailing, you have to have a dog on a leash. Obviously you have to have a permit for the animal that is shot, you have to have the dog on a leash and be trailing on a blood trail. There are different distinctions there.

Mr. Crandall asked if his dog comes with him to hunt big game, is that a problem?

Mr. Aoude said you cannot hunt big game with dogs. Relative to Mr. Bair's question, the estimate on the elk on the Wasatch is 1,775 minimum.

Director Karpowitz said be careful with that number.

Mr. Aoude said we don't use that number, we use ages in the harvest which gives a better indication of the harvest.

Mr. Bair said he was getting some questions on that relative to the number of permits.

Mr. Albrecht asked for the slide on the 4.5-5 year old bulls. Is the percentage of bulls being killed on that unit maintaining a high enough percentage to keep it fairly consistent or should it be increased more?

Mr. Aoude said it has been fairly stable. There is enough of a harvest to get an indication of the ages of the bulls there. We've added four permits to try to get within objective. There are more elk summering on that area, than winter on it. We'll get there if we increase it gradually.

Mr. Crandall asked what the statewide objective is for elk.

Mr. Aoude said about 68,000. We are over objective.

Mr. Flinders asked about Desert bighorn sheep permits. What are the recommendations based on?

Mr. Aoude said they are based on flight data. We do it two ways, 30% of older age class rams, or 12% of the total rams. Our recommendation on the Zion fits both of those and is actually on the conservative side.

Mr. Flinders asked about the radio collars on the elk on the Monroe. With the movement on and off the unit, are they seeing higher populations during the summer? How much of an increase occurs in the summer?

Mr. Aoude said it does increase quite a bit in the summer. The only elk we have collars on are coming off the Dutton, so we know the percentage coming off there, but we don't know on the other units. That unit summers more elk than it winters. We couldn't have the bull harvest we do if it was at the objective it shows. It is probably a winter range unit, but it does winter elk on other units. We'd like to investigate that further and will have a better idea when the study is done.

Mr. Flinders asked about a depredation situation on the Beaver Unit. Should we reduce permits because of this?

Director Karpowitz said there were five bulls killed with the possibility of as many as seven. They found two other blood trails. So that's the short answer to a long complicated problem.

Mr. Aoude said to answer the question of whether we should reduce permits, keep in mind we probably kill 5-15 more elk plus or minus on our spike hunt. Those 5 or 7 shouldn't make a big difference in the number of permits. They probably don't need to reduce permits.

Mr. Perkins asked about the counted population on the Zion, composition on the population, the hunting pressure and any other factors.

Ms. Griffin said on their last flight in the fall they counted 200 off the park which was an increase from 114 from 2 years ago then we assigned sight ability on that. Of the rams, 64% were class 3 or 4 rams also. Going by the guidelines in our management plan, 9 permits is still conservative and we are taking into consideration that likely the Sportsmen's permit and Conservation permit many also go to that unit. We still feel like we're being conservative. During the RAC, the sportsmen were concerned about crowding. It is a 54 day long season and she doesn't feel crowding will be an issue. There is enough area out there that has good sheep country where they can spread out.

Mr. Howard asked how many permits we have on the Zion Unit.

Mr. Aoude said a total of six.

Public Comment

Ben Lowder, UBA, in email, said they support the Division's recommendations as presented.

Lee Tracy said he is speaking for the United Wildlife Cooperative. They support the Division's recommendations on the hunt and permit numbers and seasons. They support them because they believe they are the experts in this field and those recommendations deal with the biological as well as social aspects.

Don Peay, SFW handed out some data he gathered. (See Handout#1) Out of 27 elk units they agreed with the Division on 24. On the Pahvant and the Beaver they said they have had a 43% reduction in permits to get to objective. Once you get below objective and have been on a steep decline, there is a substantial change required. The Division is recommending 45 bull permits on the Beaver and five dead bulls is more than 10%. It is not an insignificant number. The Mt. Dutton is the unit of most concern and it is well below objective with the graph line on a strong trend line down. The Division is recommending a small decrease, but it needs to be more. On the Book Cliffs the objective is 6.75 and now it is at 6.4 on a steady line down. There needs to be a reduction in permits like they presented to the RAC.

Mr. Peay went on to say that the Division's model uses a three year reverse looking trend. Adjustment needs to be made in the model. The say they're right at objective using a reverse looking model, but you're already below. The Manti is a steep downward trend, and we need to pull up now. The Manti has 12,000 elk with 400 permits and the Wasatch has about 5,000 elk and how can it sustain 680 permits? It doesn't make sense mathematically. There are fewer bulls on the Wasatch than the Division thinks.

Mr. Perkins said on the Pahvant, we haven't really overshot permits or overhunted there. The real factor is we changed the objective in 2010 and it showed up in 2011. We went from a 6-7 to a 7.5-8 age class. The Division was properly managing to get to a 6-7 in 2009 when the average age was 8, so they were issuing a lot of permits. In 2010 the

Board changed the objective and permits went from 112 to 85. It is not a matter of over harvesting, we're making a correction to line up with the objective.

Mr. Peay said he agrees. As the Division was going toward the management plan and now they're pulling up, it's a 40% change and is substantial. We are already below on the Book Cliffs and the Dutton, substantially. To get back where we want to be, a significant change is required.

Byron Bateman, SFW said their Fulfillment Committee voted 100% recommendation for the road part of the Book Cliffs to go with 130 tags. They want to keep the permits on the Wasatch the same as last year. On the Dutton they recommend 110, and on the Manti 360 bulls. To get back up to the age objectives you're looking at a 30-40% reduction in permits. He asks that they error on the side of caution. When we go into a steep descent, it takes longer to recover. Modify the descent until we get to the age objectives.

Mr. Howard said he is representing himself as a sheep advocate for the last 25 years. He would like to see a few more nonresident permits issued. We've had a die off on the north side of the San Rafael. There is possibly disease or predators that are causing that. He would like to see an increase in permit numbers on the Zion Unit to off set some of the tags to provide more opportunity.

Mr. Perkins asked if he's supporting the Division's recommendation on the Zion or suggesting a different number.

Mr. Howard said as many as we can get.

Ryan Foutz, Utah FNAWS said we have a lot of people who think we're over harvesting. But our permit numbers compared to other states are very conservative. He is encouraged that we have a place like the Zion Unit with a built in nursery in the park that will never be hunted. They are also happy with the study on the collared sheep on the north San Rafael in an effort to see what is happening there. He thanked the Board for all they do.

Mr. Bair said we know there are big sheep on the Zion. With the increase in permits do we expect to see a slight drop in the quality?

Mr. Aoude said no. The way we manage sheep in Utah is to maintain that quality and we are very cognizant of that.

Troy Justensen said he is very familiar with the Zion Unit. You might see a dip in quality or maybe concentrated pressure on certain areas. You have to take into consideration that the Zion is a new unit and guys are just starting to figure out how to hunt it. From what he's seen on that unit, the Division is not out of line in their recommendation.

Lunch Break

RAC Recommendations

Southern – Mr. Flinders said they had a lengthy motion. They recommend 110 limited entry elk permits on the Dutton. In an effort to clarify another item on Zion's sheep, the guide that is named in the minutes spoke specifically about the hunting pressure last year relative to the recommendation for an increase in three resident permits, from five to eight. The reference in the motion to reduce Zion sheep draw permits to five total – the motion was to support Mr. Johnson's comments, to hold the permit level at what they were last year, five total resident permits. The third proposal is to discontinue spike hunting on Monroe until it's at objective carried 11 to 1. The remainder of the Division's presentation was approved.

Southeastern – Mr. Jones said they had a motion to accept the Division's proposals with the limited bull elk tags reduced to 360 total permits on Central Mtns Manti. They had public comment to coast into the objectives on some of our elk units. The RAC discussion focused on bison. It was the first time in his almost 40 year history with the Southeast region and the Henry Mountains where the Henry Mountain Grazers came in and supported the DWR recommendation on bison. This was a monumental day. There was discussion on tooth data on elk and sample sizes and if it is accurate. Mr. Aoude does a good job explaining statistic sample sizes. The motion passed 6 to 4 with the local contingency not in agreement with the reduction in the elk tags.

Director Karpowitz asked if the Southeast RAC talked about the Book Cliffs / Bittercreek at all.

Mr. Jones said it never came up in the RAC. One of the SFW representatives might have mentioned it in their presentation. The RAC did not discuss it.

Central – Mr. Oswald said they had three motions. The first was to keep permit numbers on Manti the same as 2011 and it passed 6 to 4. The second was to keep the number of permits on Wasatch the same as 2011 and it failed 4 to 6. The third motion was to accept the remainder of the Division's recommendations and that passed unanimously.

Northeast – Mr. Briggs said this agenda item was the biggest topic of the night. It was approved unanimously with exception of the numbers. They had two motions. One was for the bigger numbers to be cut. On the second motion the discussion was on the decline in quality on the buck deer. Also on the elk, we're not up to objective. Therefore we came up with the motion that the deer tags be cut by 50 tags and elk tags at 130. It passed 5 to 3. One of the opposing votes was because he didn't feel the reductions recommended were enough.

Northern – Mr. Byrnes said the request was presented at their RAC to change the bull elk numbers as to what was presented at the Board meeting today. There was some discussion on that but they approved the Division's recommendations as presented unanimously.

Mr. Perkins complimented the Northeast RAC on the Chair asking why individuals vote against motions. That has two great benefits, one it lets people see why people were opposing a motion when they took a vote and it also helps the RAC craft the next motion. It is worth doing.

Chairman Brady summarized the RAC motions. He addressed the motions that passed that were different than the DWR recommendations.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the reduction on the Mt. Dutton Unit for limited entry bull elk permits to 110.

Mr. Crandall asked what the Division's recommendation was.

Mr. Aoude said it was 147. This is one of those units where we are reducing to get back up.

Mr. Crandall said the age class is down.

Mr. Flinders said the three year age objective is right on but last year's harvest the age was down a little bit.

Mr. Aoude said the Dutton is right at objective. We issue quite a few antlerless permits there every year to keep it there. The reduction in bull harvest makes it so more bulls go into the higher age class.

Chairman Brady said they'll now discuss spike elk on the Monroe.

Mr. Albrecht suggested leaving that until the November meeting. Where the proclamation has already been done for this year, it would be better to address it in November.

Mr. Perkins said that would be a change for the hunts that are published and make it a consideration for the following year, not now.

Chairman Brady said they'd now discuss the Zion's sheep permits.

Mr. Albrecht said Mr. Johnson has always been very good to come to the Southern RAC meetings and voice his concerns on the sheep units. Sometimes he's actually recognized some problems on the sheep units that the Division then had to go back in and correct. He's really kept on top of the sheep units. Still with what has been said today he is going with what the Division is recommending.

Mr. Bair said he agrees with trusting the input they get there, but leans towards supporting the Division's recommendation.

Chairman Brady said now onto the limited entry Central Mtn Manti at 360 permits.

Mr. Bair said looking at how the RACs have voted, if we split the difference we would have 406 tags. That is a good compromise.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed 4 to 2 with Ernie Perkins and Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we approve 406 permits on the limited-entry bull elk hunt on the Central Mountains Manti.

Mr. Perkins said he thinks that is too conservative. He would have gone with Central region recommendation.

Mr. Crandall said he would have split it between 480 and 390.

Chairman Brady said they'd now discuss the motion from Northeast region.

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

MOTION: I move that we decrease the bull elk limited entry permits to 130 on the Book Cliffs .

Mr. Crandall asked what the Division's recommendation was.

Mr. Aoude said 153, but they are alright with the 130.

Mr. Crandall asked what the deer tags are total.

Director Karpowitz said they are 541.

Chairman Brady said now they'll consider the motion from Northeast to reduce buck deer permits by 50 on the Book Cliffs .

Mr. Bair said he spends a lot of time out there. He has talked to people out there and if he thought cutting 50 permits would eliminate some of the 3 x 4's he would be in favor of it. If we cut 50 permits it won't affect the quality, it will just cut people out of the opportunity to hunt.

Chairman Brady said he agrees with Mr. Bair. He can't see what 50 permits will do to help that area. It might even help to keep the 50 permits in place.

Mr. Perkins said there was a recurring theme in the RACs that antler quality was down last year so we should cut permits. Last winter was historically long and cold. The animals started at a deficit and the horn quality was down. It is important that we recognize that multiple factors affect horn growth and not jump to any conclusions based on last year.

Chairman Brady said the management bucks have been there for a long time.

Mr. Bair said he recognizes what they are saying relative to the Book Cliffs, but they do not agree with going about it this way.

Mr. Briggs said when he took the RAC Chair, he was told he should be objective. He doesn't believe the numbers have as much to say about the hunters' concerns, but the quality. What they're saying is waiting as many years as they have to, to draw, the option of doing nothing is not helping and they want to do something to increase quality.

Director Karpowitz said he has been associated with the Book Cliffs for a long time. For some reason there are a lot of deer out there that don't grow the same number of points on each side. There are big chunks of the area that don't get hunted. He doesn't see why we should restrict that opportunity when there is plenty of area to hunt. There are lots of nice deer to take. He doesn't think cutting 50 permits will fix the 3 x 4's and that type of buck. Years ago when the Book Cliffs was closed then came back in to limited entry, especially in the Northeastern region, they realized that the Book Cliffs will never be a Paunsaugunt or Henry Mountains unit. It's more a middle of the road limited entry area. There are lots of old bucks on the Book Cliffs , but they don't necessarily have huge antlers.

Mr. Bair said he does not understand how the Wasatch and the Manti can border each other and be so different. There are a lot of people concerned that we are heading for a big crash on the Wasatch.

Mr. Aoude said they share that concern as a Division and even though we are ramping up permits, there are yearlings coming up behind these bulls. We may see a one year dip, but at that point we'll start cutting permits. We are concerned but it is not as extreme as people are thinking. We are going to get there and then we'll back off. Because we manage on a winter count, there are more bulls there. We can't be harvesting this many bulls every year if they're not there. We are watching it and will respond the minute it drops off.

Mr. Albrecht said he'd like to address the Beaver unit. The three year average is 7.0. On this year's recommendations there are 10 permits on early and 16 on the late hunt which tells him they want to slow the age class down, but still have opportunity for hunters. With our problem in the Marysville area with at least five bulls dead, perhaps we should address permit numbers. He feels we should cut the permits by five. It would adjust out through the regular distribution.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht, seconded by John Bair and passed 4 to 2 with Mike King and Calvin Crandall opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the limited entry bull elk permits on the Beaver Unit by five to be distributed through the weapon types.

Mr. King asked Mr. Aoude to respond to the recommendation.

Mr. Aoude said five bulls on a population of that size are not going to make a difference. If we counted everything that was killed on the roadways and everything else, we'd be reducing permits right up to the day we started the hunt. When we start reducing permits that far, we stop getting a representative of the population in the harvest, then our ages don't tell us a whole lot. We're getting close to that on the Beaver and the Pahvant. That is his only concern. He doesn't think five permits is going to do a whole lot, but if it makes the public feel better, it's alright.

Mr. Albrecht said he wouldn't have that concern if the Division wasn't concerned about the fact that they are reaching the age objective by switching the permit numbers from early to late. There is some concern from the biologist on that unit.

Mr. Perkins said he agrees with Mr. Aoude, but he will support the motion.

Mr. Crandall said five out of 45 will affect hunter opportunity. Will the hunters be upset about that?

Mr. Aoude said it depends on what hunters you ask. The majority that put in for these units know they wait a long time for the permits and expect a certain level of bulls when they get there.

Mr. Flinders said folks have brought this to his attention with a lot of email and discussion. He thinks the Board is wise to debate the topic.

Mr. King asked if this opens the door for requests like this to be made in the future.

Mr. Aoude said things that happen like this are usually more catastrophic with a large die off. It is fortunate it happened before the Board met so they can respond. This is a unique situation.

Chairman Brady said this happened because we had elk on private property. The landowner was quite upset and had been for quite some time. It might be more apt to help the problem in the future to leave the permits in the count.

Mr. Aoude said that is one approach, but there are opinions on every side.

The previous motion was then voted on.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2012 (Action)

Mr. Aoude presented these recommendations. (See Powerpoint Presentation)
He said he would start with deer. He showed a graph on fawn production trends 1998-2011 and a graph on statewide deer population trends. They are recommending 290 permits statewide for antlerless mule deer. 140 of those are dealing with depredation issues or agricultural areas. 150 permits are on the Parowan Front that are dealing with specific habitat damage. Since this recommendation has been made we are in the process of trying to do a study to see if we can transplant deer from that area to other areas. Given that, the Division still feels comfortable that we can have 150 permits that we can harvest which would be roughly 80-100 does and still be able to do the transplant study. We are not looking to change the level of permits. Realistically we could still issue a lot more permits.

Elk
Mr. Aoude showed charts illustrating elk statewide population trends and a bar graph for 2008-2012 anterless elk permits. Elk control permits are offered to hunters who have any antlered or OIAL big game permit on the following units: Henry Mountains, North San Rafael and San Juan any bull unit. There are 5 units where, due to private land or tribal land issues, we are unable to harvest enough antlerless elk to control the population – Nine Mile Range Creek, East Canyon, Chalk Creek, Morgan South Rich and South Slope Yellowstone. Recommendations for doe pronghorn and antlerless moose permits were presented. No antlerless permits are recommended for moose this year. This concluded the presentation.

Mr. Albrecht asked about the Plateau Unit and if he's comfortable with 100 antlerless permits.

Mr. Aoude said yes. It's right at objective and 100 permits will get us started. When we fly it again we can see the rate of growth. We are comfortable with 100. We don't want to be getting on top of a unit that may be just recovering, so that's the rationale for only 100 permits. If we see it showing the same rate of increase we can come back with more permits next year.

Mr. Perkins asked about the Fish Lake elk.

Ms. Griffin said they flew this winter and got a low count on the Fish Lake Unit. Between the modeling and the count, we need to be conservative. The population objective for that unit is 4,800. Our modeling says we're about at 4,800. We still want to be conservative and we are recommending no antlerless at this time.

Director Karpowitz said there will still be some mitigation permits, archery hunters can take a few and one CWMU will take a few. There will still be some antlerless take.

Mr. Perkins said let's say hypothetically the population is 4,800, if the population went to 6,000, what would permits have to be to pull it back in?

Ms. Griffin said we'd issue maybe 1000 permits, hoping for 60% success. We'd have to push hard to get back on top of it.

Mr. Perkins asked what the reaction would be if we issued that many antlerless permits on the Fish Lake.

Mr. Flinders said you don't have to ask that question. There would be a lengthy meeting. It's a political unit and it's a touchy subject. You can do no right some days when it comes to cow harvest on the Plateau.

Mr. Albrecht asked if you're at approximately 3,000 elk, how do you come up with the additional elk on sight ability.

Mr. Aoude said you divide by the sight ability, the 70% into the 3,000 counted. He went on to explain how they determine these numbers. Usually we apply 85%, but they lowered it because of poor sight ability. Going back to Mr. Perkin's question, it would take roughly 800 antlerless animals killed to keep it at objective. That's what would be needed through the future annually to keep it at objective. You roughly would have to have 1,000 permits once you're at objective.

Director Karpowitz asked what if the flight is right.

Mr. Aoude said that's why we're recommending that number.

Mr. King said last year you had 860 tags, right? What was the number the year before?

Mr. Aoude said 1,200, but there was an emergency closure because conditions would have led to over harvest. There were 400 permits on the last hunt.

Mr. Bair said on the Fish Lake he would rather shoot more elk next year when we know what we have, than shoot 500-600 elk this year when we may not know.

Mr. Aoude said he was trying to help the Board understand that in the future permits would have to be increased just to maintain objective.

Mr. Crandall said someone from the Forest Service at the Southern RAC discussed degradation because of the over population of elk and he would be for taking a few more antlerless along the way to prevent this problem. There was also a comment about how many animals come back in each year with the new calves.

Mr. Byrnes asked if Mr. Aoude was able to look at the boundaries on the San Juan.

Mr. Aoude said they are correct in the proclamation.

Mr. Byrnes said the prior boundary was extended into the spike area, is that correct?

Mr. Aoude said it had never been that way. He went back and looked at it.

Lee Tracy asked about moose cow permits. Does the Division anticipate when they might be put back on line for the benefit of those with 12-13 points.

Mr. Aoude said we will have moose permits when the population comes up. It is slightly declining at this point. He doesn't know when it will rebound, but we are looking into some of the reasons for the decline.

Mr. Tracy said the 150 doe tags on the Parowan Front was the recommendation, but there should be opportunity to remove more of those deer.

Mr. Aoude said the biologist there would probably feel comfortable with doubling those numbers, but they prefer to start conservatively. This is their starting point.

RAC Recommendations

Northern, Central and Southeastern accepted the recommendations as presented unanimously.

Northeastern accepted the recommendations and it passed 7 to 1.

Southern – Mr. Flinders said they passed the antlerless recommendation 9 to 2. The BLM representative abstained. Two issues are the additional antlerless antelope permits, with instead of 100, 250 is proposed and 500 antlerless elk permits. We have RAC representatives that live in the vicinity of the two units that run domestic livestock in these areas and they can't believe how low the proposed permit numbers are. They feel like they have some low level Division support in making these recommendations. Other things that were discussed is some fairly strong undercurrents about CWMUs and lack of public opportunity to harvest cow elk on the CWMUs on the Plateau Unit that are now harboring a lot of elk. It is a large public resource and folks would like to take advantage of it.

Public Comment

Lee Tracy is representing United Wildlife Cooperative and himself. They approve and support the recommendations as presented. As himself, he was on the range ride on the Parowan Front. They were taken to an area where the deer were concentrated near water. That area is in bad shape. They had a broad representation of groups present. They asked what it would take to turn this area around. First of all there needs to be a lot of

habitat work done and the taking of 400-600 deer from that area to allow it to come back. If they are able to work with the SFW to remove some of those deer, it still leaves a lot of them there. He personally recommends doubling the Division's recommendation to 300 whether it is by hunt or transplanting. That's the only way to get some results.

Byron Bateman, SFW said they are opposed to any increase to the cow permits on the Fish Lake, because in 2010 we had an emergency closure. We need to back off. They are opposed to the 250 increase on antlerless antelope on the Plateau and Parker Mountain. They are looking to transplant deer from the Panguitch area. Population objective on the Book Cliffs is at 41%. We can take these 100 does and do a lot of good in other areas, working to bring the herds back. We are glad we can fund that. A lot of the money to fund that is from the Western Hunting Conservation Expo and some other SFW money. They are not using any conservation permit money to fund that study.

Mr. King asked what the objective is on the study that he referred to. Is it to determine survivability of transplanted does?

Mr. Bateman said that is part of it. There have been some studies done where translocations have worked, but there hasn't been the detail of information that goes along with what Dr. Randy Larsen put into that study on moving deer. Timing is a big issue they will move 50 in December then 50 more in March to see what effect that has. They are also going to check the condition of the deer when they're captured, so they can determine the survivability. They will collar all the deer they move. The Division is very cooperative in helping with that study.

Chairman Brady asked about taking the 100 does and what happens to the fawns that are running with them.

Mr. Bateman said the fawns are old enough at that point to survive on their own.

Mr. Bair asked how they'll catch the deer.

Mr. Bateman said they're going to use helicopters because you can catch them all at once. Their original intent was to use drop nets and bait them in with alfalfa, but to get them all caught in a short period of time they're going to use the helicopters. It will be more expensive, but we want to get this going. They have also allocated $40,000 to an upcoming study on the moose study that is coming up. The conservation permit money really helps a lot with our wildlife populations in the state.

Mr. Albrecht said on the Parowan Front, has Ashley done any work to the north of Cedar in the Parowan area to see if there was a way to get the deer to migrate across the freeway?

Director Karpowitz said the deer there don't use a lot of the bypass structures. There is not a lot of movement and more deer stay on the east side of the freeway. There is habitat for them west of the freeway but for whatever reason they don't go there.

Mr. Albrecht asked if they used over passes better than under passes.

Director Karpowitz said they use underpasses better. Big wide underpasses are used more by deer and elk. It takes time for them to use those structures and get used to them, if they are properly designed.

Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Aoude to respond to Mr. Tracy's recommendation to double the doe permits on the Parowan Front to 300. Then, is there somebody who could speak to how many years it will take to restore winter range down there.

Mr. Aoude said obviously as far as increasing permits we wouldn't recommend it this first year where we're going to harvest and transplant them. He can't really say because he's not the biologist in that area. We'll probably move around 200 deer and see how that works. The tricky thing about winter range use is sometimes when you hunt animals you move them as well as kill them. They would rather take an incremental approach, move 100 and shoot 100 and see if there is response from the established brush. We need to create more winter range, mostly juniper pg encroachment issue. As we open up more of it, they'll be able to utilize more of it. It will be long term. Once we have conditions that will grow more deer, then we'll have to harvest more. We don't know how this study is going to work out. Harvest is our best tool to remove deer.

Chairman Brady asked him to define the Parowan Front.

Mr. Aoude said it's Highway 20 to about Cedar City.

Chairman Brady asked where Cottonwood is.

Ms. Griffin said Cottonwood is just north of Paragonah. They have had it divided into two different hunts so they can put pressure on the entire area. There are some livestock enclosures, but outside enclosures the land is totally depleted. Any mouths we can get off the range will help. Jason Nichols, the biologist would feel comfortable with up to 500 mouths being removed. We've had steady antlerless pressure along this area for the last several years.

Chairman Brady asked about number of lions in that area.

Ms. Griffin said there are some lions, but they don't come down too far, plus there's pretty steady pressure from hunters on that unit also.

Mr. Tracy said the issue of over or under pass was discussed also, but the expense is a problem at 1.3 million per structure. The problem would also exist on the other side of the freeway. There is not as much winter range on other side of the freeway, plus the fear of them invading agricultural areas and then comes the depredation problem.

Board Discussion

Chairman Brady summarized the Southern RAC recommendations.

Mr. Bair said he can't get past the fact that both these recommendations are on units where we've had emergency closures in the recent past and the Division is saying move forward with caution. He is not in favor of raising antlerless permits.

Mr. Crandall said relative to the local people, they want to weigh in and they think there are more numbers there than we're counting. That's why they want 250 antelope and the 500 antlerless elk permits. He would be inclined to go along with that. The antelope can multiply as fast as rabbits and he's seen that on his ranch. Elk populations have come back very quickly in the past also. To keep from having the big swings, we need to issue permits all the way along. The emergency closure on the elk was because of snow conditions.

Director Karpowitz said we were headed toward a repeat of what got us into trouble before on the Fish Lake, elk concentrated on the winter range, deep snow and a very late antlerless hunt. The antelope situation is quite different. The count in 2010 was 800 and we had 200-300 doe/fawn permits scheduled for that hunt on a low count. It warranted an emergency closure. He's glad to hear we're getting back to objective. He would hate to see a repeat on the elk. We all thought it was hard to over harvest elk, but it happened. He was very disappointed in the Forest Service letter. He then read from the letter. A couple of things it said were elk appear to be having a negative impact on our ability to regenerate aspen communities and elk grazing in riparian areas in the spring is having a negative impact. Director Karpowitz wants them to show the data on these statements. Two months ago he met with the Monroe Aspen group and they said they did not have the answers. They were looking for answers on the Monroe, which is closely associated with the Fish Lake. We no sooner leave that meeting and they've decided the problem is elk grazing. The other thing was an omission in that letter. There was a passing reference to the habitat work that's been done on the units in question. What is being done is 236,000 acres at the cost of 16 million dollars that has been done in the last several years on those units in question. The Forest Service seemed to have discounted this. There was quite a bit made in the letter about units being over objective. Two of the units are 25 and 50 over objective and they all have substantial numbers of antlerless permits. This is a good time to proceed with caution, because of what happened on the Fish Lake and the Plateau. It's curious that the two units we were so concerned about two years ago, we're ready to go back at them again.

Mr. Perkins said he agrees with the Division with the antelope issue. He is really concerned with over objective elk units. We have lived with a bunch of them in Northern region for two decades. It is really tough to get these over objective elk units back down. The public doesn't like it and we've watched that with the Southern region RAC for years. He wouldn't support 500 antlerless permits, but he would support 250. You can recover 250 elk in a heartbeat.

Mr. Albrecht said he feels like if they'd have had two different motions with the antelope separate from the elk, it would have been different results. He has had some of those RAC members call him since then. He's had people calling him on the Fish Lake telling him the numbers are lower than they should be. He cannot support the 500.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Calvin Crandall and failed 4 to 3 with Chairman Brady breaking the tie voting against the motion. Mike King, John Bair and Jake Albrecht voted against the motion and Ernie Perkins, Calvin Crandall and Bill Fenimore voted in favor.

MOTION: I move that we go with 250 general season antlerless elk permits on the Fish Lake Unit.

Chairman Brady said he voted against the motion because he wants to see less than 200. He's more in favor of what the DWR has presented. He wants to be cautious.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2012 as presented by the Division.

8) Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2012 (Action)

Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief presented this agenda item. (See Powerpoint Presentation) Through this presentation you'll see vouchers and permits. Vouchers are the private vouchers the CWMU operators receive and permits refers to the public permits that are in the draw. There are 14 CWMU CORs that have been approved by the Board, with 50 vouchers and 97 permits. A total of 62 CWMUs are requesting 388 vouchers and 1258 permits, totaling 1,646. An overview was presented on the CWMU antlerless vouchers/permits for 2011 and 2012 for comparison.

RAC Recommendations

All but the Northern RAC accepted the Division's recommendations unanimously. Northern RAC accepted the recommendations, 8 to 1, which was an abstention.

Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2012 as presented by the Division.

9) Bonus Point Rule Amendments – R657-62-9 (Action)

Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief presented these amendments. (See Powerpoint Presentation) It is part of the Drawing Application Procedures Rule. The Division proposes rescinding R657-62-9 Bonus Point Forfeiture. He explained the original intentions and the surfacing outcomes that led them to delete this from the rule.

RAC Recommendation

All RACs voted to accept the Division's recommendation as presented.

Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by John Bair and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the Bonus Point Forfeiture section: Administrative Rule R657-62-9 be rescinded.

10) Nine Mile Moose Management Plan (Action)

Justin Shannon, Wildlife Manager presented this plan. Currently we have 20-30 moose on this unit. It seems like with every elk survey we count a few more moose, so this led us to write a plan for the unit. No transplants have ever occurred on this unit, but by writing a plan we can take it through the public process and potentially induct augmentations and transplants in the future. They are proposing a population objective of 100 moose. The DWR will monitor and manage habitat and combine efforts to minimize depredation if it occurs. This plan has the support of the private landowners and also our federal partners. Although 80% of crucial moose habitat is on private land through the CWMU permits in the future and public permits that will be available, greater than 50% of the hunting opportunity will go to public hunters. These are the highlights of the plan and this concluded the presentation.

Mr. Perkins asked about input from county commissioners.

Mr. Shannon said they took it to them and there was no opposition.

Mr. Fenimore asked if the moose had colonized this area on their own.

Mr. Shannon said yes. It used to be we'd just see a handful, but now about every three years there are a few more showing up. That's what led us to write a plan and get some direction.

Mr. Albrecht asked where this unit is.

Mr. Shannon said it's the Nine Mile Unit, east of Price and north of Green River. As you follow Highway 6 down to I-70, it's the north and east portion of that unit. The Green River is the eastern boundary.

Chairman Brady asked where the moose may have come from.

Mr. Shannon said most likely Northeast region through the Avinaquin and down.

RAC Recommendation

Southeastern – Mr. Jones said they voted unanimously to support the Division's recommendation. It is mostly private land and he commended the Division for working with the private landowners to put this together.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Ernie Perkins and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Nine Mile Moose Management Plan as presented by the Division.

11) CRC Recommendation – Utah Lake Fishing Contest (Action)

Staci Coons, CRC Chairman presented this recommendation. This is a variance request from Kevin Hunt, Director of FLW College Fishing. (See the Memorandum for details) Briefly, the request is for two types of variances. They need a variance to transport live fish so they can have a live weigh in away from the catch site and they need a variance to possess five bass over 12 inches during the fishing contest. The Committee met last week to discuss this. There were not any significant concerns about how this corporation runs their fishing tournaments. It is a new area for the Division. The Committee was very confident in what this corporation has to offer. She then went over the stipulations. There are some members present that can answer any questions the Board might have. The dates for the contest are the end of August.

Director Karpowitz asked if this needs clearance from the Fish Policy Board to transplant live fish.

Ms. Coons said yes.

Roger Wilson said their meeting is in June and they were waiting for the Division's decision.

Director Karpowitz said he has a letter from President Matt Holland of Utah Valley University supporting this request.

Mr. Perkins said we don't have experience with moving fish that far for the weigh in. What is the mortality experience that the organization has? What kind of equipment do they use?

Reed Price of the Utah Lake Commission has been working with FLW Outdoors. This corporation runs numerous fishing tournaments around the nation. This one will be a regional final at Utah Lake and you can tell they have sound methods to transport the fish. The fish stay in the live wells of the boat and are transported to the weigh-in, in aerated live wells, weighed and then brought back. They experience very low mortality. He thinks the letter sent to the Division stated 98% survival. They run a class operation. Their show is viewed by millions on television and is a great way to showcase Utah Lake. Utah Lake is very under utilized and this is a great way to get the word out in promoting Utah. We are working with FLW and looking to facilitate their requests.

Mr. Bair said he has heard about this on the UVU campus and they are very excited.

Mr. Price said they have had two victories out of UVU and then to have a regional tournament here in our backyard will help us promote Utah Lake.

Clint Martinez is the advisor for the Bass Club at UVU. They are very proud of this. He is strongly in favor of this proposal. Their club started in November. KSL.com did an article on them yesterday.

Mr. King asked how many teams they expect and from how many schools.

Mr. Martinez said there are four qualifying events. Each event places the top five teams into these regional championships. UVU will send two teams to this event. There will be 20 teams competing.

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

MOTION: I move that we grant the variance request for the Utah Lake Fishing Contest as presented by CRC.

Mr. Fenimore said since the 20 teams are coming from all over the country, they would all have to pass the quagga mussel inspection and all that before they can bring a boat in.

Ms. Coons said yes and that is standard on the COR they would be issued.

12) Other Business (Contingent)

Ms. Coons said the next Board meeting is Wednesday, June 6th. Mr. Bushman has asked for four Wildlife Board members to be present on Tuesday, June 5th for a Board appeal. Calvin Crandall, John Bair, Mike King and Ernie Perkins agreed to be present.

Mr. Bair thanked the RAC Chairs for the great job they did this round of RACs. The RAC input is going to be huge as we go forward with 30 units.

The meeting was adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions
May 2012

Conservation Permit Rule Amendment R657-41

SRO, SERO, NERO

Motion: To accept the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

CRO

Motion: To accept the Division's recommendations for rocky mountain big horn sheep and desert big horn sheep and use the hard five percent limit for all other conservation species as well as the balance of the recommendations
Motion Passes 7 to 2

Motion: That it is put in rule that an annual report be published in reference to the conservation program that it lists from start to finish how the permits are allocated, the percentages that are allocated, where the money goes and what projects are accomplished with that money
Motion Passes unanimously

NRO

Motion: Exclude General Deer permits from the Conservation Permit Program.
Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion: Remove the sentences that has percent and number restrictions. Insert table for sheep and remaining species.
Motion Passes: For: 9 **Against:** 1

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board adopt the remainder of the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41 as presented.
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03

SRO, SERO, NERO, CRO

Motion: To accept the CIP Rule Amendments as presented.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

NRO

Motion: Move to accept the proposal as presented with the exception R657-3-7, 1(a) to read: A person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to kill Black-billed Magpies, House Sparrows, European Starlings or domestic pigeons, (Rock Doves) when found committing, or about to commit depredation upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance, provided:
Motion Passes: For: 9 **Against:** 1

Motion: Approve the remainder of the CIP Rule plus R657-16 and R657-59 as presented.
Motion Carries: Unanimous

Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57

SRO, SERO

Motion: To accept the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented.
Motion Passes: Unanimous.

NERO

Motion: To accept the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented.
Motion Passes: 5-1

CRO

Motion: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception that OIAL species would be eligible for a season extension
Motion Passes unanimously

NRO

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Division Variance rule as presented with the exception of Once-in-a-Lifetime Big Game could have a choice of Bonus Point restoration or season extension and "Substantially precluded" means; Three day hunting for Once-in-a-Lifetime and one day hunting for other hunts.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Deer Management Plans

SRO, SERO, NERO, CRO, NRO

Motion: Recommend the approval of Deer Management Plans as presented.
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Elk Management Plans

SRO **Motion:** To accept the Elk Management Plans as presented by the Division.
Motion Passes: 6 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained

SERO **Motion:** To accept the Elk Management Plans as presented by the Division.
Motion Passes: 4 in favor, 3 opposed

NERO, NRO

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Elk Management Plans as presented.
Motion Carries- Unanimous

CRO **Motion:** To accept the recommendations as presented
Motion Passes 8 to 1

Ferron Creek Introduction

SERO **Motion:** To support introduction of Colorado cutthroat trout into Ferron Creek as presented
Motion Passes unanimously

Hunting Closure Proposal

NRO **Motion:** Reconsider the tabled issue.
Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board reject the Poll Hunting Closure Proposal.
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Richfield High School
Richfield, UT
May 8, 2012
7:00 p.m.

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS

MOTION: To accept the Deer Management Plans as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. ELK MANAGEMENT PLANS

MOTION: To accept the Elk Management Plans as presented by the Division.

VOTE: 6 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained

4. CONSERVATION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS R657-41

MOTION: To accept the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

5. COLLECTION IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION RULE AMENDMENTS R657-03

MOTION: To accept the CIP Rule Amendments as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

6. DIVISION VARIANCE RULE AMENDMENTS R657-57

MOTION: To accept the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
April 12, 2011
5:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Rusty Aiken Dale Bagley Dave Black Harry Barber Sam Carpenter Chairman Steve Flinders Brian Johnson Mack Morrell Cordell Pearson Mike Staheli Layne Torgerson Clair Woodbury Mike Worthen	Paul Birdsey Bruce Bonebrake Lynn Chamberlain Branden Davis Mark Ekins Heather Grossman Teresa Griffin Giani Julander Brent Kazca Jim Lamb Vance Mumford Jason Nicholes Dustin Schaible Jake Selby Greg Sheehan Paul Washburn	Jake Albrecht	

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 76 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Steve Flinders introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Steve Flinders explained RAC meeting procedures.

Steve Flinders: Let's get the meeting started it's 7 o'clock. My name's Steve Flinders. I'm the chair. I represent the Fish Lake and Dixie National Forest. Anybody on that side of the room, the screen's facing the RAC. You may have some trouble seeing that screen. If you want to see the presentations you may want to shift over to the middle or this other side. Let's introduce the RAC, starting on my left, Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I'm Cordell Pearson from Circleville, representing at-large.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell; representing agriculture.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli, Delta; at-large.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley from Marysvale; represent an elected official.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield. I'm a sportsman's representative.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen from Cedar City, at-large.

Bruce Bonebrake: Bruce Bonebrake, I'm the regional supervisor here for the Division of Wildlife.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken, Cedar City, agriculture.

Brian Johnson: Brain Johnson, Enoch, non-consumptive.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter from Kanab. I represent sportsman.

Harry Barber: Harry Barber from Kanab. I represent the BLM, taking over for Paul Briggs in the future.

Dave Black: Dave Black from St. George, representing at-large.

Steve Flinders: I want to welcome Harry back to the RAC. It's been a few years. Good to see you Harry. I want to recognize Jake Albrecht in the audience tonight. Jake's a Wildlife Board member. Let me talk about the meeting order tonight and then we'll get into the agenda. There will first be a presentation from the Division of Wildlife. We'll take questions from the RAC and then questions from the public. Try to make sure you pose them as questions and try to keep them to a couple of questions if you would. Sometimes we get carried on with questions. We want to hear your comments and we want your questions answered but we want to be able to proceed through this agenda, if that makes sense. After questions from the RAC and the public we'll then proceed to comments. Please fill out a comment card. Get it to the front. Let us know which agenda item you with to speak to. We'll then proceed to comments from the RAC members and proceed to motions and voting.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

With that if the RAC members will take a look at the agenda I'll accept a motion on the agenda and the meeting minutes from last month.

Dale Bagley: I'll make a motion that we accept the minutes from month as written.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Dale. Seconded by Brian. All in favor? It looks unanimous.

Dale Bagley made the motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting as presented. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Board Update:

-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: Moving on to the Wildlife Board update. I've been to a number of Wildlife Boards and this one was unique in a few ways. It started with me leaving at Beaver at 5:15 and not getting to the board meeting until nearly 11 o'clock. There were two fatalities on I-15 that day. Traffic was something else. We had a number of things that we passed as a RAC that didn't make it through the Wildlife Board process. I say that they didn't make it through necessarily the way that we intended or the way that we passed them here. Let me go through those. I'll try to be brief but I want to give some explanation. If you need other explanation, some of you are interested more than others, that recording is available on the Division's website. You can listen to the board meeting verbatim. Listen to the discussion that goes on amongst the board members. Let me real quick talk about a couple of action log items. Those of you that are not aware, the Wildlife Board has an action log. It's sort of something that goes on behind the scenes where Division personnel often are asked to work on these items and bring them forward at a later date. We've sometimes requested special things be added to the action log. These are the items that passed.

- That the Division look into a premium limited entry deer tag similar to the premium limited entry elk tag.
- The Division look into the possibility and feasibility of a limited entry turkey permit holder who is unsuccessful that they can turn in their limited entry tag and purchase a general season tag.
- The next motion deals with the deer management plan. As you recall we asked for four units to be placed in a higher buck to doe ratio category, 20 to 25. Jake took a stab at that. It was seconded by John Bear but failed in a vote, 4 to 2, and in the end the Board unanimously passed the recommendations by the Division for deer in terms of buck to doe ratios and permit numbers. And the rational I rewrote, there was a lot of discussion about we can fine tune this later; let's just start this process and see how . . . kick this ball down the road and see what happens.
- The Board adopted our reduction in Mt. Dutton limited entry bull elk tags, 110.
- Next motion was on the Manti; a reduction that compromised at 406 for limited entry bulls.
- Next one's on the Book Cliffs. I'm not sure how many people are interested. It's 130-limited entry on the Book Cliffs.
- The Beaver unit was reduced by 5 limited entry bull elk tags, to be distributed across the weapon types.

Let me pause right here. This is due to a depredation situation that is taking place in the Beaver unit. What I want to make sure tonight, there are a lot of players in the room on both sides of that issue and let's not digress and talk about this. I don't think anything positive can come out of it. The Board did what they did, the situation happened between the RAC meeting and the Board meeting. So this has to do with depredation law, depredation policy rule, none of which is on the agenda tonight. So let's focus on what's on the agenda please.

- The next motion was to pass the bucks-bulls and once in a lifetime recommendations as presented, you know, what remained.
- And the antlerless permit recommendations this was discussed for over an hour. As you recall we asked for an increase in the antelope permits and a 500

antlerless permits on the Fish Lake. Those are two hunts that the director used him emergency authority, as you recall in the last few years to cancel or change hunts. The flight data this year was discussed, you know. Given the conditions were poor, the flight data still wasn't where the Division would like it to have been. Ernie took a stab. Ernie Perkins took a stab at 250 permits and the vote, the motion failed. So the antlerless recommendations were as the Division recommended.

- CWMUs were as recommended as well as everything else there.

So unless somebody has any questions about the Wildlife Board update. Again, if you want lots of detail you can listen to the whole thing.

Steve Finders: Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, I'd like to comment. . . just a couple of things on that. One of the things I think, a lesson learned here is when we make recommendations as a RAC we need to go to that meeting and represent that. The motions that we carried that were voted down didn't make it because there really wasn't any support up there from anyone other than Jake and Steve. And I want to thank them. They did a real fine job of trying to get our stuff put through as we voted on it down here. But we've got new Board members. We've got new people up there. And if we've got something we feel strongly about on this RAC it's going to be up to us to make sure that we're up there to represent what we feel and why we feel these changes or whatever need to be made. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Any other questions about the Board meeting? Seeing none I'll turn a mic over to Bruce for a regional update.

Regional Update:
-Bruce Bonebrake, Acting Regional Supervisor

Bruce Bonebrake: Okay, uh, don't have a lot of personnel changes this last time. I know the last meeting I spent quite a bit of time on it. Really the only one this time is I guess it's official that I'm the regional supervisor now for the southern region. I've got some dates that I'd like to throw out, a couple of things going on.

- We have a Panguitch Lake management plan public meeting, and that will be tomorrow at the Panguitch High School. It starts at, um, I'm not sure when it starts. 6 o'clock?
- Okay. Um, and then we have a mule deer study on Monroe Mountain meeting, it's on May 17th. We'll be talking about the collared fawns and coyotes that they're going to do for that study. That will be right here in Richfield at their courthouse, at the county court house, at 7 pm, on May 17th. On 250 North Main. Okay. So that's where it will be at, May 17th at the old court house, 250 North Main. Okay, then we also have coming up May 29th, we have a coyote open house that will be at the Crystal Inn in Cedar City. And I don't know if we've come up with a time of that yet. But there will be an announcement out on it. May 29th, it will be at the Crystal Inn. I think it's going to be at 6 but I'm not positive of that. Teresa, do you know what time

that coyote meeting starts? Don't know? Seven? Okay.

- Other update items, we had a major problem with, and I think I mentioned it last month with a Quagga mussel problem down at Lake Powell where they'd stopped a boat called the Fiesta Queen, it was a huge paddle wheeler that was headed for Canada. Luckily we got it diverted at Lake Powell. The owner was very easy to work with but it took quite a bit of time to decontaminate that. It had like three engines and engine compartments and it was full of Quagga mussels. So our fishery guys deserve a lot of praise for taking care of that problem.
- Lastly, we're going to have a Quagga mussel check station again this month. It will be May 11th, Friday, 3:30 to 8:30 pm. That will be at the Bloomington station. We did one last month and it's working good. We've, fortunately we haven't had to stop too many boats that have had problems, but we've had pretty good compliance. And it seems to be getting the word out, the other states have been, especially north of us where these boats are going through, that don't have Quagga mussels, are very interested in working with us on that.
- I wanted to mention that Navajo Lake will probably be mostly drained by July this year. The dike has, well the water level has finally got down to the dike. The dike hole is huge. It has washed out the bottom. There's about four feet of water in that lake right now. We're going to try and get out an emergency fishing regulation to allow people to keep eight fish out of there. The fishing is excellent there now. If anybody wants to go fishing it's really good but it won't last.
- And lastly, I wanted to mention there's uh, I mentioned them last time and I want to mention them again. The two (unintelligible) projects that we've got going, major ones down here now, and that's the fencing south of Cedar City and US-89 over on the Paunsagaunt. I was at a meeting with the DOT today; they're working on the design on the Paunsagaunt one. That will be due to start probably won't be starting on it until this winter. But those two projects, there were three RAC members that are here that were integral in getting money and funding for those. And I've got a little award I'd like to give to them, it's not much, it's some of the Division coins. And I just wanted to honor those. On the Paunsagaunt project Rusty Aiken and Sam Carpenter were integral in that and I want to thank you guys for working on that. And on the fencing project south of Cedar it just amazes me that we're going to have that thing completed probably by June, the way that thing's going along. And Mike Worthen with the county, Iron County was integral in working on that and if it hadn't been for Mike I don't think we'd ever got the money. I know one thing for sure; it would never have been completed in that time period. So again, Mike. These guys, I mean they've done such good things for wildlife. We've saved a lot of animals having those fencing projects. And we've got the right mitigation in them as far as allowing the animals to go under the freeway with what was available there. The Paunsagaunt, of course, we'll be building the structures, but the escape ramps, it's all state of the art stuff and it works. And so, thank you guys. That's all I have.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Any questions for Bruce? Seeing none let's get into the meat of things. Agenda item number 5, Deer Management Plans, Teresa.

Deer Management Plans (action) 16:33 to 20:29 of 3:21:51
-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Let's do one species at a time.

Teresa Griffin: Okay, do you want to talk about deer?

Steve Flinders: Yeah. Questions from the RAC?

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, Teresa, I noticed on the Pine Valley unit there's a pretty substantial drop in our objective from 16,000 to 12, 800. Is there a reason for that?

Teresa Griffin: Yeah and that is currently, that has been in place I believe since 2006, because of poor DCI scores. So when the range trend came through last time some of those plants were in bad condition, either there's certain rankings so if they're like poor and their condition is decreasing from the previous 5 years we do a 20 percent decrease in that population. It's short term. Once the range starts to improve . . . But it is what we think a measurement of the carrying capacity for that population. We don't want to have more deer on that unit than the habitat can sustain because the last thing we want to do is damage the habitat to the point where it will permanently lower the carrying capacity. So if we keep it low for a few years, if we have good conditions, get some moisture, when the range trend comes back through next year it may be improving and that will go back up to the long term objective.

Clair Woodbury: Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, Teresa, is the reason this rotation is every five years because we have 5 regions or is there science involved in that?

Teresa Griffin: No. It's just because of manpower and that we've got five regions. We just have the one range crew that goes around it. It's so labor intensive. So they focus, there's so many transects in each region they have to focus the entire summer in one region to get all of those read and get the data that we need. So then they'll move to the next one. We wish we could do it more often. We currently, the biologists have just been trained to do some, they're less, they're not as in depth of readings but the guys even the last few weeks have been going out and doing deeper evaluations on the sage brush condition and the different vegetative components.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, let's say, maybe we had a devastating fire someplace and we felt like that needed to be reevaluated could we move them out of their cue or whatever they're in and have them go evaluate that?

Teresa Griffin: We could have them go to maybe site specific, not probably abandon their entire region but maybe get a few guys down and read some transects. We actually did that last year. We pulled a few of the range trend guys down. We read transects up on the Beaver Mountain to evaluate some areas that we were concerned with with mountain goats. So if there are areas of great concern we can get the biologists and range trend guys to go out there and focus on a couple of specific areas but it is still manpower limited.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so let's say they make vast range improvements, so can we do the same thing for improvements that we do for devastation? Nailed ya didn't I.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah you did. Again, I mean, if there is a specific reason that we need to go back there sooner than 5 years, and I know you've heard us say so many times that these treatments sometimes take 5, 10 plus years to really get established and look good. So that's why we feel like the 5 years to measure improvements is probably adequate. I know that you want to get that Paunsagaunt herd back up to 6,500 more than we do.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah. Okay, uh, well that's good. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Other questions for Teresa from the RAC? Mack.

Mack Morrell: In our last RAC meeting we had a schedule showing what the population was in each unit. How do you come, how do you arrive at that population of deer in the state of Utah per unit?

Teresa Griffin: Our population estimate? Uh, we use all of the data that we collect throughout the year. We'll use our fawn production, out buck to doe ratios, winter loss, the collar studies that we've got going on to kind of verify what winter loss we may have had. And we do modeling on that. You can count elk, you can count big horn sheep, it's very difficult if not impossible to count deer. So we have to incorporate all of our real data and put it in models

Mack Morrell: How accurate is that?

Teresa Griffin: We feel like it's the most accurate that we have. It's the best science available. And most western states, I know they do some pretty intensive stuff in Arizona but all of the states have to do modeling to some extent with mule deer because the complexities of physically counting those animals.

Mack Morrell: I spend a lot of time on the Boulder Plateau and it seems like the last 5 years the deer population has gone down. Last fall we hardly seen a doe when we gathered cows. So I think the trend is down.

Teresa Griffin: I think the trend is probably down west wide with our mule deer populations.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Mack. Other questions?

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Seeing none, do we have questions from the public on deer? Let's move through deer. Any questions for Teresa on the presentation?

None.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I don't have any comment cards specific to deer. If I've missed somebody let me know. It looks like these comments are for the next agenda item. Is that right?

None.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Steve Flinders: So gentlemen, that's ours to deal with. There aren't any changes requested tonight. It's mainly the plan for the population objectives that we've seen. Discussion? Motion? Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: I'll make a motion to accept the recommendations of the Division on the deer management plan.

Steve Flinders: As presented?

Rusty Aiken: As presented.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Rusty. Second? Seconded by Dale. Any discussion on the motion? Let's take a vote. Those in favor? Any against? That looked unanimous.

Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the recommendations of the Division on the Deer Management Plan as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Next.

Elk Management Plans (action) 28:09 to 37:47 of 3:21:51
-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Questions from the RAC? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Again, through all of this on the elk plan, I know we're using the DCI to determine population objectives on deer, why don't we bring DCI up in any of the elk plans and why isn't it? It seems to me like they're going to be rougher on winter range than deer are. Is there a reason we don't talk about that?

Teresa Griffin: Yes, yes, the DCI, the desired component index is really targeted on species that deer feed on more, so, and the deer winter ranges, so it, where we have our transects, where we read those DCI and get those DCI scores, they really are targeted towards deer winter range rather than what elk are using. And sometimes we do extrapolate that a little bit but it really is targeted, DCI is more towards deer.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. And this doesn't really pertain to elk specifically but why is it we don't evaluate any summer range? Isn't that not important as the winter range?

Teresa Griffin: No that is very important also. And I know that people are very concerned with summer range, aspen issues, riparian willow, but it's difficult because we can't do any, to any accuracy summer counts.

Sam Carpenter: Summer counts on the wildlife specifically?

Teresa Griffin: On elk.

Sam Carpenter: On elk, okay.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, I know that years ago I think that you probably worked with when Hal Stout was the Paunsagaunt biologist. He had really toyed with that idea but the complexity of sightability with elk when all the foliage is out makes it quite complicated.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, but I'm not really concerned with counting elk as much as using a DCI study to determine, you know, help to determine population objectives. That's just a comment. You don't need to answer that.

Teresa Griffin: Sure, sure.

Steve Flinders: More questions? Harry.

Harry Barber: Teresa, on the Plateau Fish Lake acreage, 38,450 acres treated, what's the agency break down in that? Is that?

Teresa Griffin: I would have to go through bit by bit. I've got the plans, or the plans are online that have all of the habitat projects listed. We could get with Vance or Jim that have made those lists. I don't have it right here with me. We can . . .

Harry Barber: Maybe just a guess in terms of the major player in that. Is that mostly BLM, mostly Forest?

Teresa Griffin: Probably half and half, Vance says.

Vance Mumford: 42% forest service, 38% BLM.

Teresa Griffin: 42?

Vance Mumford: 42% of it is Forest Service and 33% is BLM.

Teresa Griffin: 42% Forest Service, 33 BLM.

Vance Mumford: That's the percent of the range.

Teresa Griffin: That's percent of the range also so it's not, it's not specifically on who did what habitat projects.

Harry Barber: Is that winter range that we're talking about for both of those percentages.

Teresa Griffin: Mostly winter, Vance says.

Harry Barber: Mostly winter? Um, in one of your earlier slides you talked about insuring that increases will be subject to an analysis of the impact to habitat, landowners and livestock. Did, was there an analysis done with BLM? Did some agreements come out with BLM in terms of the increase? Is BLM comfortable with analysis? Were those analysis's done together?

Teresa Griffin: BLM has served on both our statewide plan and on our unit plans. As far as an analysis . . . I don't know Harry.

Harry Barber: That's what I was wondering about in here where it says and increases will be subject to an analysis of the impacts to habitat. And that's why I was wondering if anybody went out on the ground, if DWR biologists and BLM biologists went out on the ground to look at forage, the amount of forage, habitat available, that kind of stuff.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, that's a good question. We get with the federal agencies, Forest Service, BLM, State Land, as well as some private landowners and we do yearly spring range rides and we go out and look at that range. We also do our other habitat monitoring like Teresa mentioned, along with the DCI index. And so during specifically the Fishlake Elk Committee, we met, we did talk about range conditions, and especially the winter range and the amount that's been treated in the last decade or so. And the general consensus, I think by everybody, is that in general the winter range is in very good condition with a lot of forage still available.

Harry Barber: Because ultimately my real question is in terms of the number 800. That seems like a pretty big jump. I visited with some of the BLM folks and they're feeling like maybe these improvements have not demonstrated themselves yet to be able to handle that number. I think most of our livestock men are still running at reduced numbers because of challenges in forage; and so sometimes it seems to contradict it self if you increase for wildlife but we're asking livestockmen to continue with reductions.

Teresa Griffin: The BLM actually voted for the increase.

Harry Barber: And that was going to be my very next question. Who are the representatives?

(Unknown): I don't think so.

Teresa Griffin: I've got the notes.

(Unknown): I don't think so.

Steve Flinders: Let's maintain order and let her answer the question. We'll have time for public input.

Harry Barber: And I'm not here to (unintelligible).

Teresa Griffin: I've got the notes. You can have.

Harry Barber: And I'm coming in new behind Paul. And that was going to be my last question, was who the representative was and if he or she voted for the increase?

Teresa Griffin: It was Larry Greenwood.

Steve Flinders: Did the notes say whether he was in agreement or not? It seems like they were there.

Teresa Griffin: He did, vote for the increase.

Harry Barber: Just for me own satisfaction maybe we can look at those notes sometime because I'm getting some feedback that Larry wasn't in favor. But I haven't been able to talk to Larry himself. But if that's the case then that's what the BLM will roll with. I didn't mean to put you on the spot but that just came to mind as I was looking at your notes.

Steve Flinders: Chris Coldman needs a comment card. Other questions while she's looking that up? Mack.

Mack Morrell: Teresa, at our last RAC meeting when we talked about having this permit recommendation you showed a population estimate post 2011 at 75,375 on elk. And you just stated that it was 68,000.

Teresa Griffin: Say that one more time?

Mack Morrell: I said, at our last meeting when we discussed antlerless permits you show a population estimate post 2011 elk numbers 75,375.

Teresa Griffin: That's the population estimate, not the total of the population objective. They are two different things. The estimate is what we think we have, the objective is what we're supposed to be.

Mack Morrell: I thought you said the estimate was 68,000

Teresa Griffin: The objective. If I used the word estimate I was in error. The objectives added together statewide is about 68,000. And Larry said, "There's room for more elk if the BLM was going to recommend an increase for elk I would like this increase for livestock as well. Figures show an increase of 600 or more, plus, an increase for livestock depending on the season of use. We'd have to talk to our supervisors but do not support more livestock. Also support and increase in the age class".

Harry Barber: So he sounds like he was also looking at the livestock question.

Teresa Griffin: Sure.

Steve Flinders: Sure Mack, have you got another one?

Mack Morrell: One other question or review, I was the RAC member assigned to that elk plan. And the forest ranger from Richfield, Jason Kling was there. After conversing with Curtis Robins his counterpart in Loa, Jason said the Fishlake could not sustain an increase population at this time.

Teresa Griffin: He did vote against it.

Mack Morrell: That's right.

Teresa Griffin: He was one of the six that voted against it.

Mack Morrell: Now my question is why do you recommend an increase when the federal land manager who knows more about the land than anybody else recommended against the increase?

Teresa Griffin: We're getting different stories from the same agency. Some members higher up in the Forest Service are giving us a different story. We feel also talking to them that we can support an increase.

Mack Morrell: Okay. Last RAC meeting those higher ups wrote a letter, Mcquarter and Allen Rolley or Ralley. Okay, expressing concerns about aspen generation. The elk have show to be having a negative impact, also riparian areas. And then the last statement they said, the last paragraph I'll read it . .. "As a result of habitat concerns the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests support the current population numbers as identified in the existing plans, which would be 4,800. And recommend the DWR make antlerless recommendations that will keep populations within the existing plans". So that's the higher ups. And they want to keep the population number that's 4,800. Now my question is why are we recommending an increase then from the bottom up and to the top down? The federal land agency says no.

Teresa Griffin: I can't speak for the Forest Service. I don't know if our Forest Service representative would like to say anything.

Steve Flinders: All I would add is that the Forest Service doesn't have a letter for tonight's agenda topic. They feel that the specific input was given in those working groups. The best discussions, specific discussion took place there and recognize that process.

Mack Morrell: Yeah, I was there, they voted against it. Yeah, and they voted against an increase. So that's how it stands. Also, according to the elk plan April 2007, it said the deer herd is currently under objective and there is some concern that more elk may reduce deer numbers further. And I don't think deer are on the increase and yet you want to increase elk, which will make it even harder for the deer to increase. They're still going down hill. So I think, and maybe it's more of a discussion so . . .

Steve Flinders: Yeah, Vance, do you want to speak about the interaction with deer.

Vance Mumford: You bet. I'll speak a little bit to that. Um, that's always a concern and a concern with all the Division biologists is the effect of elk populations on deer. And that's something that we watch as close as we can. But there haven't been any good studies that have shown a direct correlation with elk numbers and deer numbers. And I think that if any point we could a long-term trend and we could say it's because of the elk then I think we would see a different direction on, on say the Fishlake recommendation for an increase in the elk herd. But that's a good concern Mack. And I would just like to speak of, the reason as the biologist over the Fishlake unit, the reason that I did recommend an increase in elk is first and foremost the 38,000 acres that has been treated and been very successful on most all of that. And the forage is there and one has to do is take a tour around the Fishlake unit, Grass Valley, Parker Mountain and see that forage, and it's there. Now, what the Forest brought up with aspen and riparian areas, very good, and that would be my main concern with elk numbers also. And that's something that we'll work closely with the Forest Service, private landowners, and BLM on that. And if we have areas, big general areas that perhaps may be affected by an increase in elk we can address elk numbers fairly easily with antlerless hunts directed at pretty large geographical areas. And so say on the east side of the Fishlake, more on the Wayne County side, if we find heavy use on riparian areas or winter range we can direct the major portion of antlerless permits in that area to address that. And visa versa, if we have areas where, such as the west end of the Fishlake, right now that has really a surplus of feed on the winter range, we can issue less tags there to allow the herd to increase on that portion of the unit. And so I think like Teresa said, the use of adaptive management, I think if we use that and we're flexible and we can respond to concerns with the Forest Service, with the BLM and others.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Vance. Other questions up front? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, Teresa, I'm excited to see that we have some increase but I have a question that, our objective is 80,000. What do we need to do to get to that 80,000?

Teresa Griffin: I think we're doing everything that we can right now. Around the state a lot of the other regions they didn't hold as many committee meetings as we did. WE formed committees on every single one of our units so we could work with all of our different constituents to see if we can. We don't want to have negative impacts on landowners or habitat, or . . .But I don't know that at this point without additional habitat work that we will, I don't know that we're quite ready to make it to our 80,000.

Clair Woodbury: I see the tens of millions that we're putting of public money into this range rehab and I'm glad that we're at least going in the right direction.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Brian.

Brian Johnson: Do we have a dollar amount of how much we've put into range, of public money that we've put into? Oh yeah, I read it, never mind we're good. I'll find it. You're right, I remember seeing it.

Steve Flinders: I thought you were calling attention to that.

Teresa Griffin: And we've got Byron over there that is the best at quoting dollar amounts.

Steve Flinders: Byron likes to speak to that. Other questions from the RAC for Teresa?

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public? If you could hold these to questions. If you would come to the mic and give us your name please sir.

Gary Allen: I'm Gary Allen. Teresa, I want to know what gives you the right to increase elk, why you don't have to live with the Forest plan? I don't know anything about the Dixie National Forest but I do know about the Fishlake. How can you go above that without their approval? That's my question.

Vance Mumford: You know, elk are always controversial and that's why we have diverse committees, and why we spend days talking about the issues. The federal agencies play a huge role in that. And so they're invited to the table and we respect their opinions. And so, and that is why in the management plan, it spells out you know where the Forest Service and the other federal agencies, and state agencies come, their opinions on the elk numbers. And so we don't want to appear to go against you know, Forest Service recommendations but we still have to make recommendations on what we feel is the right thing. And so it comes down to the RAC and the Board process to make that final decision.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Vance. Other questions from the public?

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I've got a number of comment cards and I'm just going to take them in the order that we got them tonight. John Keeler followed by Stanton Gleave. Three minutes for individuals and five minutes for groups, please, we've got a number of cards here.

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. As I stated at the last RAC meeting, there are some big concerns that we have in the landowner livestock community as it relates to these collaborative groups and working groups that have been put together to look at the resource concerns, specifically aspen- a lack of aspen regeneration, and riparian degradation. A lot of environment groups are forcing the Forest Service into a corner. And the Forest Service has to respond because these environmental groups point out some of the parts of their forest plan that are lacking and they hit on them hard. And these are two areas that they stress that aren't being managed properly by the Forest Service. Also, when the Forest Service looks at livestock use this always comes into questions, lack of aspen regeneration. They're blaming the livestock, as well as the elk, but they can control the livestock and they don't seem to say that they can control the elk. So this is the process by which we make an attempt to try to control the elk. It really bothers me to see, I don't know if it's a lack of understanding or what, but we try to make the attempt to bring this to the attention of groups like this and others that there are these resource concerns going on out there and yet, you know, at some point it gets thwarted by a political maneuver. These are serious concerns we have out there. And we know what's happening in other states where the resource concern isn't taken care of the environmental groups will force, or try to force, the wolves on it to try to take care of the problem. They're serious about these degradation problems that are existing with the aspen and the riparian areas. It's a problem. Cattle like to go to these areas, the elk like to go to these areas and the elk are there first and they just whittle them down to nothing. So that's a huge, huge problem, the resource concern. The trends uh, is a concern. And even though the elk and the deer aren't the same some of those components are the same and the trend isn't improving. The deer herd is

down and at the meetings last fall where we talked, the RAC discussed the mule deer management plan, hunter after hunter after hunter stood up and anecdotally said they think elk is part of the problem. We also have a potential of dry conditions coming up. The snow pack was not good and it looks like that could be an additional pressure on the range. The analysis that is called for as it relates to landowners and livestock, that, that analysis is pretty shy. I think if these environmental groups pushed pretty hard on the monitoring that was going on or not going on it would be a problem. As far as the antlerless it was mentioned as a tool by Vance, that tool was taken away from us. We tried to give an opportunity for the Fishlake to have some antlerless take and that's not there so you can't manage if there's nothing there to use. We just think it's ill-advised to go ahead with this 800 increase on the Fishlake based on those concerns that I've mentioned. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank John. Stanton Gleave followed by Bill Christensen.

Stanton Gleave: Hello, I'm Stanton Gleave. I'm a rancher down in Piute County. I'm here representing the Monroe Mountain Ranchers Association. I'm president of it. I'm a board member on the Henry Mountain Grazing Association. At all of our meetings we've discussed about the same thing. But first of all I want to start out, I've lived my life pretty well on that Mt. Dutton and the Monroe Mountain. And there's not 2,700 deer south of I-80. It says 2,700 deer on that Mt. Dutton but there wouldn't be 500 deer. I don't think there's 300 deer on Mt. Dutton. And there's not that many on the Monroe. I don't think there's 200 on the whole Monroe Mountain. It's a shame what's happened to that deer herd. And you state right here that if the elk was affecting the deer herd you're willing to reduce the number of those elk. The animal that's affecting the deer herd is a cougar. It eats deer. He eats them everyday, and he'll eat the last one. I don't know if you'd take care of the cougars all the rest of this stuff would solve itself, the cougars and the coyotes. You'd bring your deer herd back and you wouldn't to add thousands of elk running all over us. I don't know how long we've got to protect cougars. Those cougars are a lot like me; I'd rather eat them deer than anything else. One thing I'd quit eating deer for is a fat lamb and they eat plenty of them. And I don't know why that's so hard to get through people's head, but it's just as plain as the nose on my face. You can't raise cougars and deer; it just won't work. But the big reason I'm here tonight is those ranchers all around the Monroe Mountain is affected by that elk herd. At every meeting we have the question comes up how did that elk herd go from no elk to thousands of elk? That grass that's on those mountains has been with those ranches ever since the 1800's and we depend on that grass. Without that grass we don't make a living there. When those elk go up on there we go there and the elk's already ahead of us. It will work on these years like you've had. You've had two wet years here and there's feed there. But you got a drought coming into the country and we're off the mountain. The Forest Service can't control those elk but they can control us. Well and if there's no feed we got to come off the mountain. But maybe that's the main thing I'm wanting to state is this elk herd you've got more of them than you can manage now. And then you get into this where you've treated so many thousand acres and you think you need an increase, well the ranchers have been treating acres for as long as I've been around. And in my case in 2001 that Mt. Dutton burned the whole thing and it created more grass than you've ever seen in feed on there. I didn't get one sheep. They didn't increase me one sheep. I stayed off for two years. That herd of sheep, both them herds of sheep for two years to let the range come back. And what did we get? We just held right to our same numbers while that herd of elk is clear up, I'd say to 5,000 head at least on Mt. Dutton; wintering on Mt. Dutton. Anyway, you're saying you need an increase because you've treated some acres, well ranchers have been on the decrease for 50 years. It's like the old guy at the Wool Growers Association, he said, "We've compromised here for 50 years. He said, we've compromised from over 50 million sheep to less than 5 million". And I don't know how far you people expect ranchers to keep compromising. But we're not

against wildlife. In fact you can ask any one of these guys. There's nothing better than a good herd of deer. We want our kids to have something to hunt like we did when we was kids. What's wrong with a big herd of deer? Nothing. And if you control the predators they don't live in the fields, they go on the mountain. And they stay on the, well they come down in the spring but they'll follow the grass right back up to the mountain. The reason we've got trouble with them today is there's so many predators they've got to come sleep under the bedroom window with our dogs to keep the cougars and coyotes off of them. And I don't know why we have, why these discussions. You go around, but that's just fact, I ain't telling you nothing that's not just exactly fact. If you want to solve the problem you'll go and you'll take care of that herd of cougars. And you won't go take care of one or two, you'll go take care of them. Try to wipe them out so your deer herd comes back and then you can raise a cougar or two when you get a herd of deer back. But I guess I'm tired of feeding my herd of sheep to cougars. Every year I feed 4 to 500 lambs to cougars. And that is BS. And you say, well you can get paid for it. You can't go out and track down cougars that's packing off them little lambs one after another. And a cougar covers up everything it packs off, everything it kills. So you don't, you can go right out there where they're killing deer and you don't know they're killing them. But anyway that's what my main point is, is that there's no more increase on them elk until you figure out some way to manage what you've got there. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Bill, followed by Craig Conder.

Bill Christensen: Hi gentlemen. My name is Bill Christensen; I'm the regional director for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Before that I was field director. I've been doing this for 21 years in Utah. And before that I was involved in other wildlife issues. I come from, my family's still involved in the ranching business on both sides of my family, and I'm happy to be here today. I also served on the state elk advisory committee that helped come up with these plans, as John did, and others in this room, Byron, others. I was involved with that and enjoyed that process immensely. Since 1987 the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has impacted almost one million acres in this state. And since '87 we're well over 200,000 acres on the Fishlake. In that magazine I put up there, there's only four copies, I apologize, but we talk about that almost a million of those 6 million acres has happened right here in Utah. And we've invested a lot of money in the Fishlake just like everyone here has, all the interests, livestock people. We work in conjunction with a lot of our partners like Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Mule Deer Foundation and other groups, including landowners and livestock operators. This investment of money and time is as valuable as anyone else's investment. Everyone has made an investment on this mountain. And we very carefully on the state elk advisory committee looked at every unit and realized the first thing that needs to happen is that these decisions need to be made locally. You can't have a decision top down from the state of Utah. Each one of these elk units needs to be staffed by people from local areas representing livestock, politics, sportsmen, and every group. It's the only fair way to do it. On the federal public land we are instructed to use multiple use and we need to share it. And one thing that sportsmen have done very clearly is we have put our money where our mouth is, and that's important. And I'm here representing hundreds of families here in the Sevier Valley and 8,000 Utah families, and I'm joining with the other conservation, sportsman hunting conservation groups that have done so much. And we're saying this is one unit that has the feed and the opportunity to increase and we do support an increase to 5,600 animals. If anybody would like a list specific list of projects that the elk foundation has done, it's not quite up to speed, we're missing part of 2011 and we just, our groups got together recently and just funded a lot more projects, including many on the Fishlake. And if you would like to have a list of that I'm going to give you my email address and my phone number, and I'll ask you to please call me and I will send you a list of those projects as far as we have them. Like I said, they're

not quite up to speed through 2011 but they're accurate through 2010. My email address is bchristensen@rmef.org. Which stands for Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. My office number is 801-930-5388. I can provide specific information on funding, who gave what, when and where. And I would be happy to do it for anybody. And I'm sure that my partners in conservation, our hunting groups, can tell you about the money that they've invested. It's not just public money folks; it's private money. Just like the livestock operators who invested time and money over the years, so have we. I've been doing this wildlife business since the early 80's. I've, I certainly like agriculture. I'm a supporter of it. We run a summer sheep operation in Chalk Creek. We worked with Weston Welby Aagard for years and years, and Kim Aagard. We now have a new operator that we're working with. And we have some property in Wasatch County that my cousin manages, the cattle operation on a summer cow/calf operation. If anybody has any questions I'd be happy to answer them. Again, I'm representing the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and I really appreciate your time. Thank you very much.

Steve Flinders: Thank you Bill. Craig followed by Byron Bateman. I apologize for the obstacle course up front.

Craig Conder: Hi, my name is Craig Conder. I just represent, uh, I guess a local sportsman, and a wildlife and outdoor enthusiast. I just want to comment about the Fishlake elk situation. Growing up around here and being on the mountain quite a bit, especially over on the Salina Creek side, and Saline Canyon, Gooseberry area, there used to be a lot of elk and it was fun to go out and take photograph and be able to see those. And you just haven't been able to see those as much as they have in the past. Part of the reason is with the antlerless hunt that's occurred the past 8 years. They've all, just about decimated that, you know, that first three hunts they took it down so low. And it's interesting where they get their counts. They're going clear out on the Parker, which has a lot of the elk that are wintering from the Boulder, the Dutton. Fishlake they go clear out there to Pollywog and that. But when they take those counts and they say they all belong to the Fishlake and then they come back in there and they do a lot of antlerless hunts there. But you just don't see the elk and you haven't seen the elk for quite a few years across that whole Fishlake unit like they used to have. So with their numbers, I think their numbers are way down to begin with, and that's just spending time on the mountain, you just don't see them. As far as the increase, I would like to see more elk. I like to see elk. I like to see wildlife. But also, if we look at it and I have attended the meetings also on the habitat. I was in one of the groups and the majority of the group agreed that an increase was able to handle that on the Fishlake. I think that we need to be careful what we do with the antlerless permits though, especially on the Fishlake. And I thank you for your time.

Steve Flinders: Tank you. Byron, followed by Paul Niemeyer

Byron Bateman: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Byron Bateman. I'm the president of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. It's a pleasure to come down and address the Southern Region RAC. This is a very emotional issue but it's an issue that we need to talk about and discuss. Both sides have great concerns. Livestock has a great concern. Sportsmen have a great concern. We're all concerned about the resource. The Mountain, how much habitat is out there, how much forage is out there for deer, how much forage is out there for elk. Sportsmen have invested a lot of money in the state of Utah, along with other partners. It's close to 80 million dollars. It's close to 800, 000 acres that have been rehabilitated in the last 8 years. As Bill said, we all got together back the first part of April and committed several million dollars again to more projects throughout the state, a lot of projects to go back on the Fishlake area, the Monroe area and all the areas here in the south. The southern region has had more habitat work

done than any other region in the state. Your biologists down here are more aggressive than anywhere else in the whole state and they go out and get more work done. We're willing to commit to doing more habitat work to maintain this increase of 800 more elk to go from 4,800, the current plan, to go to the 5,600. As Vance said, we have the tools in the toolbox to reduce the population very fast if we need to. If something happens to that forage we have that tool. We can be prescriptive. We can go on the east side of the mountain, west side of the mountain, north, south; we can get in there and do that. We can do that on any of these units. But I've got uh, for people that don't believe me my, I'm a fifth generation Utahan. My ancestors came here, they walked here, pushed handcarts here. They had their ranching, sheep and cattle business. I used to raise a little alfalfa. I used to have some registered Herefords and stuff like that. I've got my brand inspection card in my wallet. I keep it with me all the time. I've still got horses and mules. But as Bill alluded to, the Forest Service is multiple use. When one of us goes away the other group's going to have to burden the whole fight. You talk about the antis; their big thing now is aspen and willow regeneration. You saw what they did to Yellowstone Park with the same story; introduce wolves. What happened to the wildlife? It's gone. What happened to the cattle industry up there? It's cost them hundreds of thousands of millions of dollars in lost revenue. We need to work together as partners. Livestock owners and the sportsmen, we're willing to work together and we've got a proven track record of what we've done and what we can do throughout the state. If we can identify more projects we need to make sure that we don't over utilize the range that nobody uses; because I want to see a win-win situation for us. I don't want anybody from Washington DC to come out here and tell us how we should manage our public lands, Forest Service, BLM, which are public lands. It should be the people here in Utah; it should be the people here in the local communities that were part of these committees and stuff like that. And the local committee came up with, you know, through a long hard questions and information that was discussed in those committee meetings, the consensus, it wasn't a consensus but it was a majority said, we can stand an increase on the Fishlake. We can go from 4,800 to 5,600 elk. One other point for Mr. Gleave, and I really appreciate his comments, we just got 1.3 million dollars passed through the legislature for coyote control. The governor signed the bills on March 17th, for that 1.3 million dollars; the mule deer restoration act. There's nothing we want more than to have our mule deer herds back and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, we're committed to take out all the stops with that money going back into bounty and aerial gunning to bring our deer herds back. We're putting up a lot of our own money to do a mule deer transplant off of the Parowan front to different areas to try to move some of those mule deer that are in trouble, put them where they can be utilized somewhere else. So sportsmen are committed. We're committed to work with our partners, the ranching industry, the cattle industry, the sheep industry, the Farm Bureau. We just need to work together as partners, you know, get these differences, you know, aside. 800 elk is not really a big number if you look at it in the overall picture. So I just ask for you support. Let's work together. Let's go along with the Division's recommendation. Let's hold them accountable too to make sure that if there is a problem that we can come back in and address that problem like they said they could do. And I know they can do it. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank Byron. Paul, followed by Jeremy Chamberlain.

Paul Neimeyer: I'm Paul Niemeyer representing the local SFW chapter. As most of you guys know in Wayne, and Piute, Sevier County in our chapter banquet a year ago we donated quite a bit of money to these counties for coyote control to help them pay the bounties that are these coyote people get. But I want to give you a little history on the Fishlake. Back in 1994 is when we did the first elk management plans. There was, and I was involved in that at that time. There were recommendations on that everywhere from 3,500 to 7,500 elk. It was finally, that was back before the RAC and the Board

process. You had the Board of Big Game Control that dealt with any big game issues, and then you had the Wildlife Board. There were two separate boards that dealt with everything else. But anyway, through all that hassle and gyration around they finally settled at 5,000 on the Fishlake. Then they went into a deal a year or two later and they decided to make these boundaries on these units major highways or rivers or whatever. The old Fishlake boundary went north of I-70 up to the Manti/ Fishlake Forest boundary. But the plan was for 5,000 what they finally settled on and then they, they, when they changed that boundary they carved it back to 4,800. And so that's where from virtually '94 on we've been at 4,800, and that's kind of how that got there. But since then, you know this is on the Fishlake, we've done, you know even in recent years probably over 50,000 acres on the Fishlake of range rehab. And you can see it. I mean you've got to kind of count that on the Parker Rim is part of Fishlake because that's where a lot of the Fishlake elk winter and they also count those as Fishlake elk when they fly. So, but that's what we've done. It's ongoing. When we did meet this year in these elk management plans, I was on a couple of plans, and we did on the Fishlake originally talk about 6,500 that was the DWR recommendation. And then when everything kind of got deliberated down the DWR is asking for 5,600, which is a split between 4,800 and 6,500, and in the management plan that was the majority vote to accept that management plan. So we're asking you guys to support the DWR recommendation on these elk units. Those came with a lot of thought and study. And we are doing ongoing habitat projects constantly to try to improve habitat. And that is our recommendation to go to 5,600 on the Fishlake and also support the other elk management plans in this region. Thanks

Steve Flinders: Thanks Paul. Jeremy followed by Wade Heaton.

Jeremy Chamberlain: I'm Jeremy Chamberlain from the Friends of the Paunsaugunt. I just want to first of all tell the RAC thank you for your time. Our little group, the little Friends of the Paunsagaunt group that we pay attention to what's going on down there on the Paunsagaunt. And we meet, we try to monthly, and so we appreciate the time that you guys spend in our behalf, listening to us and listening to the recommendations. We also meet with the fish and game on a pretty regular basis. And right now Dustin and a few of us, Dustin's a biologist down there on the Paunsagaunt, and not that he doesn't do a good job but really with Sam and Rusty and us as concerned sportsman, we keep pretty good track of what he does. And he does a great job. I will say that, he does a phenomenal job of making recommendations, keeping us in the know I guess, of what the fish and game, the DWR, are trying to do. I would like to say, you know, there's been a lot of public comment tonight about the fish and game doing this and the fish and game not doing that, and they need to do this and they need to do that. Our little group gets together with the fish and game and it's actually become a really nice working relationship with them. There's no hidden punches or anything like that that we pull on them or they pull on us. And we've been really pleased with the way that the Paunsagaunt is turning around. It's not back to where we would like it as sportsman or anything like that but we're working towards it. And we feel as a group that the fish and game are behind us. We're behind them in making great strides, especially with this elk management plan. Maybe it's because we're getting rid of 35 more of them. But anyway, appreciate your guys' time and thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Wade followed by Rich Persons.

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton represent the Alton CWMU. Just very briefly, I was on the Paunsagaunt elk committee. DWR did a great job. They truly did. We had a really diverse group on our committee. They had a lot of good ideas. They really went out of their way to uh, just to pool everybody. You know to find out where everybody wanted to go. And then they really did a good job staying with that

direction. And in our case, the majority of the people wanted to decrease permits, which is their recommendation. Anyway, just hats off to them they did a good job. They've got a very difficult assignment, especially some of the other units, but the Paunsagaunt's not that bad, we hate them and so we want them dead. But with a lot of these others it's more, more, difficult. Anyway, CWMU and as a member of the Friends of the Paunsagaunt, we do support the DWR's recommendation for their elk management plan. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Rich followed by Gary Allen.

Rich Persons: Just we'd like to express appreciation to the RAC committee, to the Department of Wildlife Resources. I am in favor of the increase. And so that you know that I'm coming from a understanding both sides of the equation, my family is directly involved in cattle ranching, has significant interest in having access to public lands for that. And on the other hand I work for the Forest Service. I'm the budget officer. I see a lot of things that are happening there and where the money's going. I cannot speak for them or for my relatives and family that are involved in the cattle business. I am speaking as an individual. As an individual sportsman I believe what the Department of Wildlife Resources is done with their studies and their analysis support the increase on the Fishlake. And so I recommend or ask you to approve that.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Gary Allen followed by Troy Justensen.

Gary Allen: I just want to say on record that the 38,000 acres that you guys are all taking credit for that, half of that should have went to livestock. Livestock should have had a 50 % increase before you guys get any increase. That's the way it's set up. There's been no permittees that's got any more, no permits. And I'm telling you don't raise your, I don't want you to raise your elk numbers. I don't want to have to, instead of feeding 400 head of them; I don't want to have to feed 800. Because he has the tools to manage that but he can't manage one little bunch of elk. But Teresa I want to thank you for one thing, because you do know how to manage elk. You give me permission to shoot them and that's the best management tool that you guys has got. And you should applaud her and listen to what she's saying. Decrease their numbers.

Steve Flinders: Troy followed by Verland King.

Troy Justensen: Troy Justensen, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. I believe at the last Board meeting Director Karpowitz stated that there's been a total of 16 million dollars and over 220,000 acres treated right in this general vicinity. Byron pretty much spoke exactly what I wanted to talk about. We as sportsmen have invested a lot of dollars into this place. We know that we have to have a good working relationship with the cattlemen. We're not here to drive them out of business. I think we've proved in the past, such as what's happened on the Henrys with the bison, that we are able to reach across the isle and work together, do projects that benefit both wildlife and livestock. We support and would like to support the Division's recommendation to increase the numbers on the Fishlake by 800. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Verland followed by Chris Colton.

Verland King: Verland King. I'm a private landowner in Piute County. I think you need to pay attention to what Gary Allen said, and what was discussed by the Board about what the federal agencies said that

they didn't want an increase unless they increased the livestock. You know there's been a lot of talk about all these acres that have been worked up and that's great. But we found out on the . . . and I'm a member of the Henry Mountain bison committee, that you can do a lot of work on the ground but the bison or the elk, a lot of times can't utilize it because it's based on water. A lot of this stuff that you're talking about that's done is great. I'd like to see those elk stay up there right around Highway 24, but they're not, they're coming down lower. And this year wasn't the snow that pushed them lower. I've got private land right in the bottom. Those elk have to water in Otter Creek and they graze my pasture coming and going. And if you increase the herd, increase the numbers on the Fishlake that's going to increase the numbers that I'm going to be feeding. I talked to my neighbor a little while ago and he says boy you've got a lot of deer out on the reseeding. Last two, two years ago, three years ago I got some money from the GIP and I reseeded some sagebrush. And he says, you've got a big herd of deer out there. And I thought, well that's great. But I like the deer. I don't mind feeding them. I've got 100 head in my field over in Wayne County. But you need to listen to Stanton Gleave when he talks about the lion. That's what's killing the deer, them and the coyotes. And you guys can say coyote, but we need to control the lion too. You need to control the predator if you're going to get a deer herd. You know we've done these studies, the DWR has this 5-year range trend and then you quiz them down, you corner them and they tell ya, oh it just studies deer habitat. Well the elk and the deer have the same habitat in the winter and it's winter range that's critical. And if, and if, I mean no matter how much you go and improve and it helps, but if a lot of times it's based on the water, a lot of times it's based on other factors that the wildlife, that you can't control. So I think, I would recommend that the RAC board not accept this 800 elk increase on the Fishlake. This is a good deal about, you know we talked about we can control them, we can do this, we can have hunts, but in my experience that doesn't work. You might can kill a few, you end up moving them somewhere else and then somebody else has a problem. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Verland. Sure Sam. Verland, question for you.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, Verland, are you receiving any compensation for these elk grazing in your fields that you're referring to?

Verland King: No I'm not.

Sam Carpenter: Is there a reason that he's not? If the, I mean if you have depredation problem with elk my understanding is DWR can analyze, evaluate that and you can receive money for that depredation.

Verland King: Yeah, I'm not asking. I haven't approached them that way. On my ranch in Wayne County the problem that I do have are big bulls and that doesn't fit in the depredation problem. And also, uh, I can get depredation doe tags but the last two years I've elected not to because I want the herd to increase there. So . . .

Sam Carpenter: Well it's appreciated that you feel that way. But if you strongly feel you're being hurt you're authorized to get that depredation and you should take advantage of that program and that would allow for the increase in the elk and we could all come to terms with that.

Verland King: Well that's good in theory but my experience isn't that it works that good. To get the depredation tags to get the control that needs to be there when it needs to be there.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, but it's not necessarily tags. They can actually pay you for the damage after it's

assessed in real dollars.

Verland King: Okay, well that's the hard part is figuring out what the damage is. So . . .

Sam Carpenter: They have a formula to do that and you should take advantage of it if you're getting hurt.

Verland King: Okay, well right now I don't feel I'm getting hurt that much but I don't need another 800 head to work with.

Sam Carpenter: If they do the increase then maybe you should change your mind on that.

Verland King: Well I will if they do the increase. And if we can, I mean, if we can document it, that's a problem. I'm there a couple of days a week; all I see are the tracks. Uh, but what I'm saying is they have to water in Otter Creek and to get to Otter Creek they damage private land all the way up and down the creek.

Sam Carpenter: Who's your biologist for DWR in that area?

Verland King: I don't know.

Sam Carpenter: Can you comment on this?

Steve Flinders: Sam, let's not call the division out on a depredation problem that really resides with the landowner.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, I take that back. I just, it just don't sound like . . .

Steve Flinders: If he wants to initiate that process let's let him do that. Is that all right?

Verland King: Yeah. And that's fine with me.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Verland. I think you made your point and we appreciate it. Chris Colton.

Chris Colton: Thank you. Chris Colton, I'm the assistant field manager for renewable resources for the BLM in Richfield. Most of the country around the Fishlake unit is ours. The, I didn't come tonight prepared to speak but I think you guys need to understand something about the BLM and I need to clear up some misunderstanding that maybe happened in the elk committees. BLM was formed in, well actually the grazing service was formed in 1934 with the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act to stabilize the grazing industry. Cowboys were killing the sheepman, the sheepman were killing the cowboys. They formed the BLM, assigned base property to the local people and that's the way grazing is allocated on the BLM. The Forest Service is a similar system; they're older. As a bureaucrat, and 62 % of people hate the government by the way in a poll I read last week, but I guess that's our lot. But I have to live with laws and I have to live with regulations. Let me tell you a little bit of history about the, especially Grass Valley which turns out to be a lot of the winter range for the Fishlake area. Early 1990 the state division of water quality put Otter Creek on the Clean Water Act 303D list, meaning it is not in compliance with clean water standards for the state of Utah. That means with the water quality that's there it does not meet the purpose that it was allocated for. It's not clean enough. There was a

watershed assessment performed on Grass Valley. BLM was blamed with part of that water quality problem. In response we initiated a lot of the treatment that went on there and 303D, or 313, Section 319 funded a lot of the initial treatments in Grass Valley. And before the Utah Partners for Conservation Development, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Mule Deer Foundation were all contacted. They participated in doing those improvements in there. Well the reason that part of that was on the Clean Water Act problem was because that range was in poor stinking condition. The sheepman, most of it was sheep allotments and the sheepman couldn't even use it anymore, too damn many coyotes, the forage was poor, they couldn't make a profit running there. Okay, introduce all this treatment. Okay, BLM in part of our regulatory authority we have to have functional uplands, which is where most of these treatments are. We have to have functional riparian areas, which is included dispersed throughout this area. We have to take into account water quality. And lastly, we have to provide for endangered species because the endangered species act trumps all of this stuff. And in the background al l that is stabilizing the industry. Point being, yes there's been a lot of improvements, a lot more than 38,000 acres. Since I've been in Richfield for 20 years I think we've done pushing 60,000 acres, and yes it looks good. And yes, maybe if we put more elk on it they'd do just fine. But, number one, the regulations for grazing say if there is increased forage any cuts that have occurred to people, and these guys have referred to them, in the 60's through the early 90's, up to 50 % of some of these permits were suspended almost on a permanent basis because the feed wasn't there. I'm telling you it was poor. And before we can give anything to wildlife we've got to reallocate the first feed to that. Okay? Then on a prorated basis, uh, we can take care of any other forage that's there. Well maybe wildlife's part of that and maybe it isn't. The reason I brought up the Clean Water Act stuff is Otter Creek still does not meet those water quality standards and we do not need more grazing, more elk, more deer, more sheep, more cows. We don't need it and we need to stabilize that. In 2002 when the fish and game let out all those antlerless permits on the Fishlake it was just by happenstance that that elk herd was reduced going into the worst drought we've had in a century and the cowboy's still took 80 to 100% cuts on their allotments. And that is not what I would call stabilizing the livestock industry. And so an increase in anything is not in the cards besides being almost impossible. Now down to the Endangered Species Act, we're looking at a sage hen listing in 2015 possibly, and right now there's a lot of things being bandied about that there could be a lot of adverse actions on these permittees right now regardless of what happens, just due to the sage hens. And I'm telling you right now that this does not need to be any more grazing and we need to take care of what we've got and do that. Anyway, any questions for me?

Steve Flinders: Thanks Chris. Dave Brinkerhoff followed by Glen Allen.

David Brinkerhoff: David Brinkerhoff. I'm a grazer on the Seven Mile allotment and also with some of the country that Chris just talked about on the BLM. I'm a Henry Mountain grazers. I serve on both of those boards at this point. I don't think, I spend a lot of time on the range and we don't need any more elk on the range at this time. My main concern is the resource. There's a lot of damage that occurs on those early springtime when it greens up if you've got a herd of elk taking it as quick as it comes. And that's what they do; the elk are right there as quick as the first blade of green starts and they just follow it right up the hill. I'm quite concerned about that part of it and I'm also concerned about the watershed. As we all know that the quaking aspen, or the aspen does a lot to bring our watershed and the things that we need to just sustain life. If we follow what a lot of these environmental groups are concerned about it they'd put a lot of blame on the livestock. There was one individual that put a camera out and what's taking those aspen are the elk. Resource is important. Once you devastate that resource it's not going to come back for years. We have to remember those things. The habitat is very important. The local grazing management, managers have recommended that we don't increase elk. They're at the bottom.

They see the problem, they see what's going on and yet we have to take our orders from the top down that doesn't have the understanding of what's going on on the bottom end on the land. Lately, maybe the last ten years we're starting to see a lot of elk coming into the rancher's farms. There's not a lot of winter wheat or stuff grown in Wayne County but a lot of these countries like Piute and Summit they do do some winter wheat growing and the elk are down on there taking that and are doing the damage as quick as it starts to come up. So we need to, if we look at increasing more elk we're just going to increase more damage. Currently I'm holding 3,000 plus suspended AUMs that I can't use right now. If we're going to increase elk we need to increase livestock too. I appreciate what the habitat that's been improved but I think we need to understand that that habitat that's improved is also something that they need to maintain also. That's a maintenance operation. The livestock people go through that every year, maintaining the resource that they already have. And that's what a lot of those resources or reseedings and stuff was done as they've improved the resource and it looks great but we need to understand we need to maintain those things. I thank you guys for your time and effort that you put in to serve on those boards. And I thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Glen followed by Scott Christensen

Glen Allen: I'm Glen Allen. I'm a rancher. I'm up here for myself. What I want to say is I'm absolutely against an increase. I've bought and paid for what I've got. What I have was not given to me. I pay a grazing fee every month on the animals I run. This is nothing free. We want to talk numbers, add up the dollars that the farmer and the rancher puts in for grazing fees alone. Do the math on that. The other thing is is the depredation program that they mentioned, pennies on the dollar. If I come in your house and steal your TV I'm going to give you 20 bucks for it when I leave because that's about what the tradeoff is. The last thing I want to say here is all an increase is going to do is it's going to start a range war. You're going to drive a bigger wedge between the rancher and the sportsman. And that's all that's going to happen. And for, this comment's for the sportsman, if you're going to threaten me then you're going to threaten my family, go ahead and sign your name. That's all I'm asking. Sign your name. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Scott, followed by Deloss. Deloss is the last card I have. If I've missed anybody . . . any other cards?

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, I live in Loa. I just wanted to make a few points. I sat on the elk committee that was the same committee that Mack sat on. I guess I kind of walked away with a little bit of different view and I wanted to share kind of my outlook of the meeting. I just represented a, I guess a sportsman and myself in that committee. When they came to the vote and we talked about many different things the notes that I had was Jason Kling was the Forest Service representative, he was standing in for Kirt Robins that could not make it, apparently to the meeting. Also, there was Kreig Rasmussen who represented the Forest Service for the elk, and Larry Greenwood who represented the BLM. Kreig and Larry both felt like there was feed not being consumed and going to waste on the range so both of them, if you'll look at the minutes, recommended that the increase be made. Like it was stated before, sportsman, SFW asked for 6,500 head but through the committee and talking about protecting the resource, not wanting to extend it too high at once, then it was voted on to just increase it to the 5,600 that's been recommended to the RAC. I guess I was kind of, I really learned a lot in the meeting. I didn't feel like when they shot all the cows I think they said in 2002 was by accident. I thought that was somewhat planned for concerning droughts that already were happening. I don't believe it was by accident by any means. I know there's been a lot of discussion. I'm a big mule deer

fan. Those that know me I'd kill every elk in the state if I really believed it would get our mule deer herds back. That's my passion. But as we've studied, and I've talked with many of the biologists, we've reduced deer number, or elk numbers completely on several units, or tried to, and we're still not seeing that increase of the deer on those units. It's a mystery. I know there are a lot of people working on it; nobody wants it back more than me. But until we can really see some true evidence on some of these areas where we have like the Henrys try to take every elk off the mountain and really see an explosion off deer, even that unit's declining on population. So just back to the, um, and I also have another question and maybe some of the grazers can ask . . . I support 100 % if we're going to increase the elk population that we do increase grazing permits that have been cut. As far as I know and it's more of a question, are sportsmen ever invited to those decisions with the Forest Service and the BLM to support you guys and to help out with that?

John Keeler: (from the audience).

Scott Christensen: I do agree. If we're going to increase the elk herds I think some of the cattleman have every right to request. I guess I feel like we're asking the wrong committee. Nobody on this board, unless they serve a different role, has the ability to increase grazing permits. If I can be of any help I would be more than happy to come support increased grazing rights.

Steve Flinders: I'm behind Scott. Do you want to wrap up?

Scott Christensen: Yep. Um, just to wrap up I do support the increase of 5,600.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Deloss. Three minutes sir.

Deloss Christensen: Without being sarcastic or rhetorical, my heroes have always been cowboys. Way before Willie Nielson ever thought of that lyric. My grandfather ran horses on 29 sections. My father farmed all his life. I rode bareback and chased 1000 head of horses more miles than I ever want to count before I was old enough to ride in a saddle. I understand what these gentlemen's heartaches are. It's hard to make a living farming. However, I like hunting. It's a lifestyle too. We have a right to share those ranges under the multiple use program. That's the law. We had over 7,000 elk on the Fishlake at one time. The only problems that were identified in those years were early elk feeding in the new-planted fields in Gooseberry. However, the RACs, the Division, and the cattle association asked us to remove those elk and to help restore the habitat on that mountain. And then all of the groups involved, including the Farm Bureau, said when that restoration is done we'll put some elk back on that unit, if you'll agree to reduce them while we regrow the grass. We did that. The projects that were used to put the forage that's out there now that motivated Mr. Rasmussen and Mr. Greenwood to support increasing the numbers came from the seed money that the sportsman gave the federal government to match those restoration projects. Now, during that meeting Mack is right, they identified new problems because the old ones were gone. They told us that. Everyone that was there knows that they told us those winter ranges didn't need more work; that the riparian areas and aspen groves did. Now here's the problem, if we supported the restoration of the BLM and the winter range and there's no payback for that are we going to be motivated to provide that seed money to help with the restoration of those aspen groves that are so critical for both parties? How can we do that if we don't keep the agreement we had in the 90's? As some of the folks have said this evening we came to that meeting that the DWR invited us to asking for 1,500 head, back to where we were. We compromised already, nearly 50%. I don't want any of these folks to go broke because of elk. In fact Mack, you remember how long we spoke with Gary

Hallows about whether or not . . .(Timer sounds) We've gone over so I'll take just another minutes. We talked about how we could help you, didn't we, in that meeting. And what we said was maybe you can come on early and stay late during the good years. Didn't we say that? Look at your minutes, it's right there. That was our recommendation to help livestock. I've been in these meetings for 37 years. I have never recommended that we reduce a single sheep or a single cow from a unit, never. Never have I heard another sportsman do that. We have always wanted to work with our families and friends in that industry. I didn't hear many Fishlake grazers here tonight. I heard a general discussion against elk. Where are the people? Where's my neighbor, Mr. Ripstein who runs cows on the Fishlake tonight? He's not here. The people here tonight aren't saying there isn't room on the Fishlake. They're saying there's no room. I support the Division's recommendations. I appreciate it. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Deloss. Too recap, not to diminish the comments here tonight, in terms of those in favor and those against it's a pretty even split. I think that the Plateau seems to have been mentioned the most and so with that in mind. Let me back up, one more comment card. Scott Allen. It looks like you get the last word.

Scott Allen: I'm Scott Allen, and I'm here for myself, I'm a rancher. As far as I go they've got up here and they're putting the landowner's backs against the wall. If you add more elk you're just putting our backs against the wall. We got no rights on our own private land. As far as depredation goes it is just a slap in the face. The damage that is occurred does not get paid for. It don't get compensated for. And as far as all this money that's been put into the ranges around here, as far as I go mine, I don't keep a total. That's my livelihood. I don't, I can't get up here and give the numbers of what me and my family and what everybody has done to improve the range. I ain't going to brag about that. But yet we're just going to keep pushing the livestock around and putting us down. I don't know, I'd like to just say that I do not support any elk numbers and I would like to see them put back into order. I, the Forest Service once put them back down to their numbers like they ought to be. On the Forest plan, that is the law and why don't we stand up and uphold the law? That's what I'd like to say.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Scott

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Steve Flinders: If that's all the comment cards, what I'd like to task the RAC with is to perhaps address the Fishlake Plateau change all by itself first. Other things will probably fall into place. But if you want to debate that issue and talk about what we learned here tonight. Mack.

Mack Morrell: Deloss, as far as your concerned, grazer is set for a season of use, period, by law. The season of use is so many days, on and off time is set in law and that is not being changed. To my knowledge it cannot be changed.

Deloss Christensen: (answered from audience).

Mack Morrell: Anyway.

Steve Flinders: Finish your point Mack.

Mack Morrell: The deer herd got in the condition it is today over 30 or 40 years to do it. And you're not going to change that in one, two, three, four, five years of decreasing elk or increasing habitat, or doing a lot of predator killing. That's going to take a long time. Yes you're working on it with these uh, 30 some odd areas and taking the coyotes out and a few not. But you know I still think, and everybody knows on the land that's been on the land the elk push the deer out. They've done it on the winter range so the deer are in town. And Sam, to address your comment on money ranchers receive from depredation, that's nothing. That's just a band aide every year. It doesn't address the real problem. The real problem is they're devastating private land, period, because there's not enough winter range. That's why they're down there in the fields, elk. Just not enough winter range. You can talk about all the habitat you want, there's just not enough winter range for elk. In fact I think they ought to be decreased. Uh, and Teresa and I have had several talks. They've on Dutton a couple of years ago, or last year, they collared some elk and followed them around. They summered on Monroe, Fishlake, Boulder, and some even went to the Paunsagaunt. Right? These were some cow elk. So those, and I've advocated since I've been on the RAC, the Fishlake, the Monroe, the Dutton and Boulder elk are all comingled. You do not know how many elk you have unless you count them all in the same year and this one was not done last year because of lack of snow. So you really don't know how many elk you have. And I read again from the Forest Service, they do not support an increase, period. From Kurt Robins, and Kurt Robins runs the Fishlake side from Loa. Jason Kling runs this other side here from Richfield. And then also from the Forest Supervisors, Dixie and Fishlake National Forest, they support population numbers identified in existing management plans. And keep the population within the existing plans. The plan is still at 4,800 and that's where it ought to be. So, anyway that's all I've got to say.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Mack. Other RAC comments? Dale.

Dale Bagley: Just one comment. The last meeting John Keeler spoke of some concerns on the numbers up there on Fishlake. Mack also spoke on it. And as a RAC we voted I think it was 9 to 2 for a depredation, or not a depredation but for an antlerless hunt, which is one of the tools that was spoke of. But it got voted down at the Board meeting. But I mean this is a tool that was said here in this meeting that could happen but if we see the need for it here and it gets voted down up north then I can see why these guys don't have much faith in that particular tool.

Steve Flinders: Mike.

Mike Worthen: I can see both sides of the story and I'm very sympathetic to both. And sitting here listening to the comments and especially when it was pointed out that before an elk population can be increased there should be an analysis of the impacts on the habitat, landowners, and livestock and whatever else. And I don't think I've seen the analysis. I've heard talk saying yeah it was discussed, or they said it was okay, but when it comes back to what the BLM really, or the BLM questions whether it was okay, then it causes me concern that, and the letter from the Forest Service is contrary to what is being proposed here too. So maybe we're putting the cart before the horse by suggesting an increase until we get with the federal land agencies, who are responsible for habitat, not the Division but the federal land agencies. And come back with their suggestions on can that habitat sustain increased elk numbers in that area or not. And then put that into the process. My understanding, and Harry you can correct me if I'm wrong, but when, at least on the BLM and I'm not sure how the Forest Service does this, but when there are range improvements done out on the range they have specific direction on how them increased AUMs are to be used. Some of it will go to wildlife, some of it will go to species with special concern, some of it will go back to the ranchers and increase the AUMs. And if that's the case

and we've got increased AUMs is that formula or is that direction being followed? And it doesn't sound like, I haven't heard where the BLM has said there's increased AUMs in that area and what number. And I haven't heard where the Forest Service has said that either. So I'm just wondering if we're kind of premature in suggesting numbers at this point. And I would entertain a motion that we look at that. Delay this decision until we get those numbers from the federal land agencies and can make a better educated guess.

Steve Flinders: Is that a motion?

Mike Worthen: Let me hold off the motion until we get into the main motion.

Steve Flinders: Other comments by the RAC? Harry.

Harry Barber: In my, when I started my careen 21 years ago with the BLM as a wildlife biologist and I can see both sides of this coin, as a big promoter of increases in a lot of different species. As a manager, however, I have to look at all sides of the equation. I sit across the desk from permittees almost weekly who come in and they want to know why they have to decrease their numbers, or why we can't increase their numbers, or why some of these projects are not going out on the ground and working with them to help them increase. Personally I can agree to the increase but I have to speak for BLM. And it goes back to what was just spoken, I don't know if enough time was spent on the ground with the BLM range and wildlife biologists to look at the forage to determine who gets the increase and how that increase is divided up. Several folks said tonight that they support both sides of the issue to some degree and that's where I'm going with that. I support both sides of the issue but I don't know if enough analysis was done. And I turn right to the population objective, again I mentioned this in the beginning, the objective insuring that any increases will be subject to an analysis of the impacts to habitat, landowners, and livestock operators. I don't know if that's happened. It doesn't sound like to me that there was enough time spent on the ground looking at that forage to determine how that forage is going to be allocated. Both sides have a lot invested. I've worked a lot with SFW in the past. If it weren't for some of the work that we did out on the Kaiparowits we wouldn't have big horn sheep in some of those areas if it weren't for SFW. I go back to what Byron said, a lot of money invested on both sides. He indicated, if Byron you're still here, that we need to work together on this. And that's the component I see that might be lacking, is the amount in which we work together to try to determine how that forage is going to be used. I like elk and I want to see elk increase to a degree. But I also have to work with livestockmen and help them understand what's happening in terms of their permits. And it doesn't look fair to me sometimes if we're going to ask the livestockmen to continue with their reduction or not increase him to some number that he was in the past, yet we go with a number that we're still not completely sure with on elk. I'd like to hear a motion similar to what was suggested a moment ago to where we see more analysis done on the ground or at least a differently type of analysis, more than just range rides. It's getting out on the ground with the federal folks, with the range staff, with the wildlife staff and looking at that forage and letting the livestock permitee go out on the ground with them so that everybody can be there and working together to see how those numbers are going to pan out.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Harry. Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I sit here representing sportsmen and my heart is with cattlemen on this, or agriculture. I served on the Paunsagaunt elk committee. We had several of the livestock people on that committee. Each and everyone of them testified that they have had deer populations on their property for years and

years, the elk have moved in and there are no more deer there, the deer have moved off. And we talk about there's no scientific studies or anything to preclude or to prove that cattle, or that deer and elk will not cohabitate. We do know that they do. There is a study out there for people to read, the Sharkie Study that was done, I believe in Oregon. It has an awful lot of information on deer and elk and cattle interactions. So there is stuff out there that can be researched and looked at and there are studies. The bottom line of those studies, more or less said that the deer and elk do cohabitate but when push comes to shove the elk are going to win every time. On this particular issue I'm not familiar with the Fishlake but on the Paunsagaunt when we got together and made a decision we decided to cut the elk on there. It's a premium deer unit and there was enough evidence and testimony there that we went that direction on the Paunsagaunt. Being stuck here representing sportsmen and knowing what I represent when I have seen in my lifetime on the Paunsagaunt, I can remember when we had no elk on the Paunsagaunt, very few. And that has certainly changed in the last 15 years and it has affected where the deer hang out. As far as it affecting the population it's like people have testified here tonight, there is no proof that elk displace or affect the population of the deer. But, I'm going to have to abstain on this vote because I cannot, I don't feel fair that I can represent the sportsman and vote with them when I see the other issues that we're talking about here with we need continued studies. And I would just like to see, like Mr. Worthen has suggested, that a little more research done on this particular unit to make a decision that everybody will be able to live with.

Steve Flinders: More discussion. Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, I'd just like to reiterate what Sam just said. I, both parties, and I know SFW, I know all the sportsmen's groups have put thousands and thousands of dollars into habitation for elk and deer. I also have some very good friends sitting down there from my county and I know that livestock is their livelihood, sheep. I want to go back to (unintelligible). And I'm saying this, and there's nothing against anybody, before we ever had elk on the Beaver Mountain I can remember my dad used to run cattle on the Beaver Mountain. And when I graduated from high school we was down to 4 head of cows. We got cut every single year. And there was no elk. I think sometimes we blame the wrong people. Okay? I don't have that say, Forest Service and BLM has that say. But every time that you guys get cut there's always a statement in there about the elk. Okay? I know elk create havoc; I know they do. I think as far as me taking a vote on this, and I have friends on both sides of this issue and I feel very, very deeply about it, but I like to hunt, everybody likes to hunt. Okay? But, I also understand what you're going through. And I'll be honest with ya right now; I've seen both sides. And I know all this money's been put in and I think that we need, they just talked about the Paunsagaunt, what they've done, okay it's a deer area and they don't want elk, period. Okay? Well bottom line is we're going to have elk somewhere. All right? But maybe these groups that ought to get together that have this problem and figure out what the problem is and how we can solve this problem. Because let me tell you what, sportsman and livestock owners, trust me we're one in the same and we're fighting this battle because they would love, these environmentalists and all the BS that's going on to kick you off the mountain with your cows and to kick all of us off the mountain from hunting, then we could all sit down in our cars and look at the mountains and say oh isn't that beautiful. And not one person would get to use anything. So I think we need to stop fighting against each other and help each other. And I'm not saying, I mean Mack came up with a thing on the Fishlake, I know how you cattleman feel about elk, but I also know how the sportsman feel. And tonight I've heard things from, I don't know how the BLM voted in that meeting. Because I've heard they voted one way and I've heard they voted another way here tonight. And the Forest Service the same way. Now I know Mack's got this letter, okay. But in that elk meeting, that's why these meetings are set up so everybody's involved, everybody has a say. And it

should be an even amount of number on both sides so where they don't stack the meeting. Okay? And I don't know if that's what happened. I'm just saying that, you know. And I want to get back to what Stanton said about cougars. I'll tell you what, I've chased cougars my whole life and I don't think we will ever have a deer herd until we kill every one of those son's of b's and I wish there was something that this board could do about it but we can't. We have to live by the laws. And trust me, it is environmentalists, friends of the animals, okay, and other people involved, why we can't kill more cougars. But I know how many deer cougars kill. And they kill a whole lot of them. And until we see a whole bunch of cougars taken off these ranges we're never going to have no deer. That's all I've got to say

Steve Flinders: Thanks Cordell. Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I love to hear Cordell speak, he's so eloquent over there. You ought to run for something Cordell. I just want to throw my wholehearted support behind this increase in elk. Anybody that's been listening to me for the last 6 years knows how, well I love elk. They are a regal animal. They're the best tasting piece of meat the lord created. And I just wish we could have got to that 80,000 with this plan. That's all.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Clair. Other comments? Out on the end, Dave.

Dave Black: I'd just like to say too that I see and I live with both sides of this equation and I too wish that we could be partners in this fight because I think the people we need to fight are the environmental groups. They're trying to destroy a lifestyle that we've enjoyed all of our lives. The thing that concerns me though is the feeling that I got out of the meeting that I went to is I felt like both sides agreed that we could support an increase in cattle, in livestock, in sheep. We could also support and increase in elk and deer. And I would be glad to sit on a committee or help in any way I could to increase the number of permits for livestock. That's what my father-in-law does as a living. It is an injustice what you guys have gone through. But we're here tonight to talk about elk. And I wish I could vote for cattle and sheep but I can't. But I can vote for the elk. I was a little disheartened, there are representatives there from the Forest Service and the BLM, their personal opinions did not reflect the opinions of their supervisors. I feel like if there's any more studies being done we will also see the results and the opinions of their supervisors and not the people that are on the ground that understand the properties. And I think that we can support both additional cattle, and sheep, and elk. But the results of those studies will say no more increases, period, regardless of what's out in the field. My vote tonight would be to approve the plan as presented by the DWR.

Steve Flinders: Brian

Brian Johnson: You guys thought I wasn't going to say anything. I mean, this, this is such a tough issue. I just want to echo what he just said about, we can't vote on cows and sheep tonight. We're here to vote on an elk and a deer management plans. And I just, 62%, somebody said 62% of the people hate government and it's because we have a study to have a study to have a study to have a study on the study we didn't have. And I don't know. I'm getting some conflicting things here. I just, I just think that when there's that much invested from sportsman, that such a huge body of the public, if we don't vote to throw something back to them in a couple of increases in elk on some units . . . There's going to be elk on some units. There's going to be deer on others. I mean part of this plan . . . . I mean I just . . . We've got to decide where we, where we want elk and where we want deer. We're going to have to deal with that.

And so I would support the Division's recommendations.

Steve Flinders: Other RAC comments? Sure, Mike. Are you ready to make that motion?

Mike Worthen: I'm getting ready there. One thing I want to make clear is that I'm not opposed to elk and I'm not opposed to increased cattle. I am opposed to decrease cattle if the elk are going to increase. And therefore I think it's wise that we back up. It's not going to be that long that we back up and say hey, let's get the factions together and see how much increased forage is out there and then work out an allocation plan. And if it comes up to increased cattle and increased elk that would be great. And I would support whatever that group that effort comes up with. So with that let me make a motion that we send this, table this and send it back to the Division and ask them to do a more thorough analysis of how much forage is on the Fishlake that equates to MOU and then get with the . . .or AUMs, excuse me, and then get with the cattleman, the sportsman, the interested groups and work out some type of compromise on what each would get out of this, rather than just roll over one group for the benefit of another. So that's my motion.

Steve Flinders: Would you do Giani a favor and restate that in 25 words or less.

Mike Worthen: That we table the suggested increase of 800 elk on the Fishlake and do a more thorough analysis that includes number of increased AUMs out there and negotiations with the permitted users and the sportsman and other interest groups.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Motion by Mike. Is there a second? Seconded by Mack. Discussion on the motion? This just pertains to the Fishlake. Dave.

Dave Black: I guess my question would be is how realistic will this happen or will we just miss out on an opportunity to vote and the Wildlife Board will make a decision for us?

Steve Flinders: It's a valid question. They are the ultimate authority.

Dave Black: So we can recommend that we study this thing and all we're doing is missing an opportunity to express our real opinion on how this should turn out.

Steve Flinders: Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I would move that we to amend the motion to pass the elk management plan as the Division has proposed with Mike's recommendation that they do a more thorough investigation to substantiate what they are, and prove what they are proposing is sound. But that we do pass the motion as, or pass the plan as presented.

Steve Flinders: Ya know it sort of, it doesn't really impact that motion, it's rather independent. Do you want to make that as a separate motion and we could vote on this Plateau unit alone and then make a second motion on the balance? It's what I prefer to do.

Clair Woodbury: I would hate to see the Plateau excluded from my motion. That is our main concern tonight.

Steve Flinders: Okay. Do you want to amend your motion to include everything else?

Mike Worthen: No.

Steve Flinders: Is the amendment seconded by anyone?

Brian Johnson: I don't understand?

Steve Flinders: What it is in essence is Clair's tying the rest of the elk management plan and the objectives as presented, including the Plateau, so we're voting on it all. But that's, but yeah, he's declined to include that so now the amendment is all by itself, which is the balance of the plan. So the Fishlake has been carved out. The amended motion is the rest of the elk plan as recommended. Is that seconded?

Clair Woodbury: I move that we amend his proposal to include the whole elk plan, including Fishlake, that we attach his motion as a recommendation to study that Fishlake area. I move that we approve the whole plan. You can figure that out.

Mike Worthen: I'd like to get clarification on that.

Steve Flinders: Sure Mike.

Mike Worthen: Does that mean that in your amendment that the Fishlake would include the 800 increase or would that be tabled as the motion was?

Clair Woodbury: No that would include the 800 increase. I've seen no evidence that we shouldn't include that.

Steve Flinders: There's a lot of overlap in the motions and lots of confusion up here. Harry.

Harry Barber: I'm confused but I guess the question I have is when we talk about going back and doing this study I'm not talking about a big study. I was talking about AUMs, looking at how many AUMs are involved in these treatments and breaking those AUMs down by how many AUMs are going to go to wildlife, elk, and how many AUMs are may go to livestock. And that's up for the agencies to determine whether that can happen or not. The problem I see with this last motion is what we're, in my mind saying we're going to approve it and then we're going to go see how many AUMs that are and if the AUMs aren't there how do we back up? It's kind of like writing checks out before you know money's in the bank but you're going to go ahead and write the checks and then when you come later and find out the money's not there how do you back out of that?

Steve Flinders: Yeah, and your comments are specific to the Plateau.

Harry Barber: Specific to the Plateau.

Steve Flinders: Okay, we've got a motion on the table and an amendment to that motion but there's a lot of conflict and overlap between those motions. And I don't, is there a second on the motion? On the amended motion? That motion dies for lack of second. Let's go back to the original motion.

Discussion on the motion by Mike, seconded by Mack. Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, I've just got a question for Vance. Okay, you as a biologist for the fish and game, have you done an analysis or anything on the Fishlake saying that it will substantiate 800 more elk?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, that's a good question. And we don't have a mechanism to do that. I would actually, if you would like to have Chris Colten from the BLM come and talk, even if those measurements are done I don't know how that's calculated, you know the AUMs available, AUMs. Could you clarify that?

Steve Flinders: You know, in the essence of time, Vance if it's okay with you, I'm one of those darn federal biologists. What this sounds like to me is, in my RAC chair hat, is a lot like the Henry Mountains bison issue. And though it's not the perfect paradigm or the perfect model for how to work these details out, that's a lot different group than the group that was formed for the elk management plan revision. That has grazing specialists; it has all the permittees at the table that might be affected, private landowners. And that sounds like where this may morph into if we pass this motion that we haven't even voted on yet. So let's deal with this motion. And Cordell, with all respect to your question, they didn't look real deep, we're not looking at AUM allocations, the Forest Service doesn't allocate forage, necessarily, specifically to wild ungulates. I'd like to vote on this motion after some discussion up here, conceptually. We're tabling the Plateau for now with the recommendation to the Wildlife Board that we form some sort of group like that, if that's what the RAC's thinking about, and then we move on with the rest of the agenda.

Cordell Pearson: Okay. I'd just like a little clarification on the motion. What is it right now?

Steve Flinders: Giani, do you want to read that? It's four pages up.

Giani Julander: (Off mic).

Steve Flinders: That's the motion on the table. Further discussion on that motion? I'd like to call a vote.

Brian Johnson: Could you repeat that please? We couldn't hear it. Hand her a mic please.

Giani Julander: To table the suggested increase of 800 elk on the Fishlake and do a more thorough analysis of the number of AUMs available with respect to grazing and sportsman needs. Does that sound like what you said?

Steve Flinders: Is that the motion you made? Is that the motion you seconded Mack? I'm ready to call a vote on this motion. Those in favor please hold your hands up so we can count you. Up, those in favor of the motion. The motion we just read. In favor. Hold them up. Did you get them counted? The vote in favor of the motion. Those against? Sam abstained. Hold them up. This is against. Sam abstained. What's the count? Six against?

Giani Julander: Five in favor, six against.

Steve Flinders: Motion fails.

Mike Worthen made the motion to table the suggested increase of 800 elk on the Fishlake unit and do a more thorough analysis of number of AUMs available with respect to grazing and sportsman's needs. Mack Morrell seconded. Motion failed, 5 in favor, 6 opposed. Sam Carpenter abstained. (Dave Black, Brian Johnson, Rusty Aiken, Clair Woodbury, Layne Torgerson, Cordell Pearson opposed.)

Steve Flinders: Ready for another motion. Clair. Clair wants to take a stab.

Clair Woodbury: I'll get it right this time. I move that we approve the elk management plan as presented by the DWR.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Clair.

Layne Torgerson: Second.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Layne. Discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: I know that we mentioned writing checks before we had money in there, would you object an amendment to the motion of putting together a group to get some people on the ground? You're saying with the committee the local elk committee has already had 16 people on the ground. Okay, this is just part of the discussion part. Don't throw rocks at me. Sorry.

Steve Flinders: Further discussion on the motion on the table? Let's call a vote. Those in favor please hold them up. Those against. Sam, you didn't vote. What's the count? Motion passes

Clair Woodbury made the motion to approve the elk management plans as presented by the Division. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried 6 in favor, 5 opposed. Sam Carpenter abstained. (Rusty Aiken, Mike Worthen, Dale Bagley, Mike Staheli, Mack Morrell opposed)

Steve Flinders: Moving on to Conservation Permit Rule Amendment. Kevin Bunnell.

Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41 (action) 2:35:08 to 2:43:32 of 3:21:51
-Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Kevin did you mention, how much money on an annual basis are we talking about associated with this rule?

Kevin Bunnell: I had it broke down into 5-year. But in the last 2 years I think it was 5.3 million dollars for raising, you know, roughly 2.5 million a year right now.

Steve Flinders: Questions for Kevin? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Under the current plan . . . no, go back to that slide you were just on. On the change

the timing of the funds transferred to the Division, under the current plan that money stays with the conservation organization? I mean they have the opportunity to bank that money and draw interest on it until the project is completed, correct?

Kevin Bunnell: Until they are invoiced for it, yeah.

Layne Torgerson: And with the recommendation you're talking about if the project once it is planned and bid or appropriated for.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, once they, once they allocate their funds or the funds that they've raised through the project to, or raised through the program to a specific project, we would invoice them for the amount that they have agreed to contribute, within 90 days after they make the commitment. But it will change it by about 6 or 8 months in terms of when the money gets transferred.

Steve Flinders: But it's fresher on everybody's mind.

Layne Torgerson: That was my next question, is, is that will change it by 6 to 8 months.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah. Somewhere between 6-9, the invoice is a little different every year based on when we complete projects.

Layne Torgerson: Isn't there, as I was reading through my packet isn't there a rule in place, isn't there like a September 1st cut off on all those . . ..

Kevin Bunnell: By September 1st they have to report what they raised through their banquets the previous year.

Layne Torgerson: Okay, I follow you.

Steve Flinders: Sure, Mike.

Mike Staheli: Kevin, is there any mechanism in place like, the total number of desert big horn for instance, conservation permits, is it 5, 6, 7? Can all 5 or 6 of those go in one unit that only has 3 public tags thus that unit be over harvested?

Kevin Bunnell: No. The way it works right now is they can combine units, or we can combine units to get up to a minimum of 5, which puts 1 conservation permit on those 2 units combined. And that's the most that could be there on once you combine to get up to the minimum number.

Mike Staheli: Okay, so if one unit has 3 and another one has 2 then that gives you your 5 and then 1 conservation. But on those conservation units, you may have 5 of those statewide. Are those conservation specific . . ..

Kevin Bunnell: They're specific to those units. Specific to those units.

Mike Staheli: Oh, okay. That was the question.

Kevin Bunnell: There is, now there is one, what we call the sportsman tag for each species that is statewide but there's only one of those per species.

Mike Staheli: Okay. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Dale.

Dale Bagley: Okay, you've got a mechanism built in for once in a lifetime but is there anything for limited entry elk? Or is down tern in permit numbers for public as opposed to conservation permits.

Kevin Bunnell: There isn't because we've been, we haven't seen a need for that, and we've been growing in general the number of limited entry elk tags. And so it goes both ways, we don't take them back if they go down but we don't increase them during the 3-year period if they go up. And so during the last 3-year period the number of limited entry elk tags is way higher than it was in 2009 and yet there was no increase. So those increases only come once every 3 years.

Dale Bagley: Okay and I can agree with that. But there are some units, Monroe in '09, you were up in the hundreds, 130 permits or something when these were approved. Since that time you're down to 35 tags this year, 6 conservation permits this year. I mean that's a pretty high percentage of that small allotment. Beaver, I mean you've gone down to 45 permits and you're at 4 conservation permits. I mean I haven't looked at every unit but I mean there's some scenarios where the public is losing tags and those conservation tags are staying still.

Kevin Bunnell: Are staying the same. There are some examples of that, Dale, for sure. At this time, you know, we wanted to put the mechanism in for once in a lifetime species, certainly once that's in there that opens the door for using a similar thing down the road.

Steve Flinders: Other questions?

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public? Both of you?

None.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I don't have any comment cards.

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: It's ours to deal with.

Layne Torgerson: I make a motion Mr. Chairman that we accept the presentation as per Kevin's presentation.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Layne. Is there a second? Seconded by Mike Worthen. Any discussion on that motion? Those in favor of the motion? Any against? That looked unanimous.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented by the Division. Mike Worthen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Kevin. The infamous CIP amendment.

Collection Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03 (action) 2:49:12 to 2:58:48 of 3:21:51
-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Chief
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Hey Paul?

Paul Birdsey: Yes.

Steve Flinders: I don't mean any disrespect but if you, in the essence of time does anybody have heartburn if we cut to the chase on this? Very few public here. It's after 10 o'clock. Is that okay Paul?

Paul Birdsey: It's fine with me. You could have made that decision 15 minutes ago Steve.

Steve Flinders: We had the material in our packet. The public has had the material.

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Hand him that microphone, this is . . . Thanks Paul. Two Pauls.

Paul Niemeyer: Okay, 100 years ago we made this treaty with Mexico and through that treaty the crows and the magpies and the ravens got protected. And you couldn't shoot them in Utah. Well anyway then I went to the Board, I took some samples, they gave me a permit to take some magpies, we drew blood on them. Warren Harward used to be a turkey guy here and he knew how to draw blood. And we sent it to that labs and it proved they carried titers for disease and we got some vegetables out of these vegetable plots that they were doing in Sevier County then where they'd go in and eat the hearts out of like the lettuce and different things. Anyway, I went to the Board and the Board in that meeting made it legal to shoot crows and magpies. Now somewhere you can't touch ravens, I know that, but somewhere through all this, now nobody seems to know, and I've been right from about the top down and bottom up on this, if you can actually kill a crow or magpie. Now I think they come under this. But is that a question you can answer?

Steve Flinders: Kevin Bunnell. You treat it at Fish and Wildlife Services for review isn't it?

Kevin Bunnell: In a couple of more slides you would have seen magpies are added to the list that there's no COR required. If there's damage being done, and that includes cowbirds and several others. Crows are a different story. We could issue a COR so they're under a different classification for someone to take, to take crows but it can't be done just without a COR. So there is a mechanism to do that with crows, magpies.

Paul Niemeyer: speaking off microphone.

Steve Flinders: Not if it's on your private land doing damage.

Deloss Christensen: What if it's on somebody else's private land?

Steve Flinders: They need to shoot it.

Kevin Bunnell: Or give you permission.

Steve Flinders: Or give you permission.

Deloss Christensen: (Off the mic . . .We're trying to keep sage grouse and we're closing down all these units and those things are eating those eggs, and you know that. Let's address that.)

Kevin Bunnell: Ravens, ravens are, and that is being address in a big way Deloss. There's tens of thousands of poison eggs put out specifically for ravens every year.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, that's going on.

Deloss Christensen: (Off the mic . . . Well let's shoot a few of them.)

Kevin Bunnell: Well that, ravens are an issue that we, they're out of our purview.

Deloss Christensen: (Off the mic . . . Well if you can poison them why can't you shoot them?)

Kevin Bunnell: Well if it's the federal agency that does it and they have a permit to do so. Magpies yes, crows no.

Steve Flinders: Excellent, other questions?

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I don't have any comment cards.

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the RAC? Mike

Mike Worthen: One quick question on feral swine, feral hogs. Is the Department of Ag over that or who regulates the feral swine?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, yes exactly. We, so this one's a little bit complicated because species wise feral pigs or swine and Russian Boars are the same species. So we do, so we delineate, if it's a wild, if anybody can prove that it had come from a wild source we would have authority. But we're excluding domestic or feral, meaning that they've come from a domestic source because the Department of Agriculture has the authority there.

Layne Torgerson: Kevin don't go away.

Kevin Bunnell: This is more questions than we had the first time we did this.

Layne Torgerson: I know that, and I don't know this for a fact, but apparently through the legislature this year there was a feral swine issue that came up about shutting down these commercial pig hunting operations like the one in Price, the one up to Corrine, those are the only two I know about. Do you know the status of that?

Kevin: Well that's part of the reason that we've made it clear in here that the Department of Ag has authority there because there was some question. And so we're, part of this effort is to make it very clear, if they're domestic it's Department of Ag's purview, if they're from a wild source they're outs.

Layne Torgerson: So the DW, I mean those commercial hunting operations that are in operation now you guys don't have any jurisdiction over those?

Kevin Bunnell: No.

Steve Flinders: Good questions. Any others? No comment cards. Cards to deal with.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we accept CIP as proposed.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Brian. Second by Sam. Any discussion? Those in favor? Any against? That looked unanimous.
Unanimous

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the CIP amendments as proposed by the Division. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Greg Sheehan.

Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57 (action) 3:04:54 to 3:14:57 of 3:21:51
-Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: We've all sat through lots of these at the Wildlife Board and they are difficult issues to

deal with. Any questions for Greg?

Greg Sheehan: yes. That's kind of, sorry, you know. Some of the internal discussion was, how long does it take to draw out a San Juan elk.

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public?

None.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I don't have any comment cards.

Brian Johnson: I have a question. Out of fear of getting shot here . . . I know everyone wants to go home. But it's mentioned that the once in the lifetime there had been a lot of internal discussion about saying, but what you're proposing, just so I'm clear, that you would just give their bonus point back and move those guys back into the draw with no extension of the tag, if they break their leg the opening morning of the hunt, or something like that.

Greg Sheehan: Yeah. How about the second morning of the hunt. So, if they, oh I'm sorry, on the once in a lifetime, yeah. Yeah, that's kind of, sorry, you know. And if you've got 18 or 19 points not such a big deal, you're going to draw it again next year.

Brian Johnson: If you have two.

Greg Sheehan: If you've got two, bummer.

Brian Johnson: It's a big deal.

Greg Sheehan: And that's why we kind of talked about that a little bit. But some people, you know, kind of some of the internal discussions well how long does it take to draw out a San Juan bull elk, you know? Isn't that a once in a lifetime too? And so to leave it consistent we just said, preference points, species, you know, here's the rule, bonus point, here's the rule on some of these other categories, here's the extension. There's not a right or wrong. This is all about social considerations really.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Deloss.

Deloss Christensen: I have a comment not a questions. Are you ready for comments?

Steve Flinders: Yes.

Deloss Christensen: Do you want me to go to the mic or can I just talk?

Steve Flinders: Well we can hand you a mic right here because we'd like to capture it for the minutes. Somebody hand him a mic. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: I'll probably be the first guy to break a leg going out on a sheep hunt. But I've seen this kind of thing go on for 35 years here. And the fear that I have is that once we start on this kind of agreement it grows. And I'm just really worried that there's some really creative people amongst us who can turn this into a real mess by taking advantage of it when it shouldn't be. And so I guess my recommendation is if they haven't been on the mountain, if the hunt hasn't started and they want to turn their tag back so they can get a chance again then I'd support that. But I would hate to see you let them start and then quit for any reason.

Steve Flinders: So not one day?

Deloss Christensen: Not one day. And I know that's kind of bitter but I just worry that where that's going to take us in the next and the next.

Steve Flinders: Thank you.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Added discussion by the RAC? That is exactly what I've seen the board struggle with is what is an opportunity? And it, you know, some folks articulate scouting, some a morning an afternoon, it's really a tough call.

Brian Johnson: I like the one-day because the Division closes on a Friday, the hunt starts on a Saturday. So if you have an accident between Friday night and Saturday, I mean at least you can go in there and say, look I never went on the mountain, or I went on it . . . I mean I, I like the one-day. It's cutting it clear. I like what you've done saying hey if it falls under this, if it doesn't fall under these criteria the Board can't even see it. That way you're stopping it before it can get to them and then you're saving . . One you're saving a lot of people's time on the Board, so I like that part of it. I just, I mean, I, it is hard to swallow the once in a lifetime but you have a great point with the San Juan Elk Ridge or the Beaver Mountain elk tag, those are essentially turning into once in a lifetime hunts. So I would make a recommendation to pass this rule as presented, except on the last page where it says two days it should just say one day.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Brian. Motion by Brian. Second by Rusty. Any discussion on that motion? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just one thing to clarify in my mind, we're already doing these variances and have been for some time, isn't that true? And this is just to kind of streamline the process so we don't have to go back and forth and try to decide some of the things that determine whether they get the variance or not?

Greg Sheehan: The biggest single thing if I said, there's a lot of little changes here but the biggest single thing is we're going to move away from everybody who gets injured or something happens and gets to move it into next year. We're going to just reset and give you your points back. I mean there's a lot of little things, the number of day and this and that, but the main thing is we don't want to get where we're pushing a lot of seasons, stacking them on top, especially on some of these once in a lifetime species.

You know adding a couple of sheep onto a unit might be a really big deal, you know, And so they're doing classifications and different things at times of the year and if we've allowed some animals to live but secretly we've got some permits building on the other side of that and they're going to be shooting them. It's not big problem yet but you saw that growth pattern that I showed, it could become a problem a few years from now. So that's probably the biggest single thing we're addressing.

Steve Flinders: I don't usually get to vote but it also levels the playing field and sets some major parameters on what's appealable to the Board. Are we ready to vote? Those in favor? Any against? That looked unanimous.

Brian Johnson made the motion to approve the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented by the Division. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business
-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: That's a meeting. Any other topics? I don't have any other business. Motion to adjourn?

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I move that we adjourn.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Layne.

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
May 9, 2012 ↬ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes
MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written
Passed unanimously

Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41
MOTION: To accept the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented
Passed unanimously

Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendment R657-03
MOTION: To accept the Importation and Possession Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously

Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57
MOTION: To accept the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented
Passed unanimously

Deer Management Plans
MOTION: To accept the deer management plans as presented
Passed unanimously

Elk Management Plans
MOTION: To accept the elk management plans as presented
Passed 4 to 3 in favor of the plan

Cold Springs WMA management plan
MOTION: To accept the Cold Springs WMA plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Upper San Rafael WMA management plan
MOTION: To accept the Upper San Rafael WMA management plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Ferron Creek Introduction
MOTION: To support introduction of Colorado cutthroat trout into Ferron Creek as presented

Passed unanimously

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
May 9, 2012 ↬ 6:30 p.m.

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Members Present	Members Absent
Kevin Albrecht, USFS	
Seth Allred, At Large	
Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor	
	Sue Bellagamba, Environmental
	Blair Eastman, Agriculture
Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental	
	Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official
Todd Huntington, At Large	
Derris Jones, Chairman	
	Kenneth Maryboy, Navajo Rep.
	Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen
Christine Micoz, At Large	
	Travis Pehrson, Sportsmen
Pam Riddle, BLM	
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture	

Others Present
Mike King

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1) Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure
-Derris Jones, Chairman

2) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)
-Derris Jones, Chairman

VOTING
Motion was made by Pam Riddle to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Kevin Albrecht
Motion passed unanimously

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update and Questions from the RAC
-by Derris Jones

Derris Jones-I will be doing the Board update from now on. Evidently there was some concern from the AG's office about having a wildlife board member doing the update. I don't know exactly why, but he advised strongly that the chairman do the update.

The Board talked about a fifth tier of buck: doe ratios on 4 units in the southern region, and it failed 2-For and 4-Against that motion. Another issue that came up on the discussion was that any permits that don't get sold for the weapon type would be rolled over into another weapon type. All the RACs would just as soon see the permits go unsold as to roll them over into the next weapon type, but due to a lack of motion from the Board, nothing happened on that, so it passed with the rest of the Division's recommendations as far as the permits rolling over.

Bill Bates-Let me just clarify that a little bit. The southern region RAC passed a motion to not allow the permits to roll over, but the other four RACs did not make that motion. Derris is to be excused on this part because he was stuck in traffic and was a couple of hours late to the meeting and I had to sit in as RAC chairman, so the notes are probably a little bleak.

Derris Jones-The southeast region RAC took forward the proposal to make the San Juan 18-25 bucks per 100 does. There was a lot of discussion and concern about the San Juan buck: doe ratio being different than the LaSal buck: doe ratio. If one were higher than another, a lot of permits for the higher buck: doe ratio unit would probably end up going to Wasatch Front people. If the San Juan and LaSal were the same, then it spreads the Wasatch Front people out a little more, and gives the locals a little more opportunity to hunt their units. After that discussion, from lack of a motion from the Board, it stayed at the Division recommendation, which was 15-17 bucks: 100 does.

The northeast region voted to have all their units go to 18-20, and that died from lack of a motion as well, so it stayed with the Division recommendation.

Ernie requested that the RACs--on all our votes--whatever the minority is, which is usually the opposing votes, articulate why they voted the way they did. He said it helps him for the opposing members to offer some kind of a statement in the minutes of why they voted against it. I don't know if that's going to be a requirement or not, but if anybody who does vote "No," I'm going to open it up for anyone who wants to get in the record why they voted "no." If you want to, that's great.

Todd Huntington-That can't be required, can it? There's no way that can be required. That's crazy.

Bill Bates-It's not part of the rule.

Todd Huntington -Who wants us to do that?

Derris Jones- It's one of the Wildlife Board members, Ernie Perkins. He's one of the northern region Wildlife Board members. He said it just helps him understand the argument. He could be convinced otherwise if he knows why they are voting against it.

Todd Huntington -I think if we felt strongly enough about it, we could communicate with the Wildlife Board about why we voted 'no.' I did that, at this Board meeting, on the elk vote…on the Manti bulls permits there. I don't feel like we should have to explain though

Derris Jones-Yeah, and I'm not going to sit and stare at you until you say something, but I am going to give everybody an opportunity, after a vote, if somebody wants to explain the reasoning.

Todd Huntington -There may be some issues where we feel…and I probably should have done that when I voted 'no' on the number of permits, well, we'll get to that later.

Derris Jones-Okay. Is there anything I missed, Bill?

Bill Bates-I think you missed the deer management plan. It was accepted unanimously.

Derris Jones-Yeah, there was very little change to the Division recommendation at the end of a couple of hours of talking.

Bill Bates-Although it's important to note that they discussed every issue, in the end, they approved recommendations as presented.

Derris Jones-There was a lot of discussion on it. They were getting pulled in totally opposite directions, so they felt that if everybody was pulling in opposite directions, they felt they were in the middle, where they should be. That was their reasoning on it.
Bill Bates-The other thing they expressed is that we don't have any data yet. We've never had a season under this scenario, so to try to tweak things right now, they just felt it was premature, and John Bair and Mike King, both in particular, made mention that they would be more comfortable tweaking things in the future, if there's a need, if the data shows there's a need.
Charlie Tracy-When you say they failed to make a motion, they just didn't feel like it? I guess I don't understand that part. They just let it go as the Division presented it. Is that what you mean?
Derris Jones-Right. Every time we voted something different from what the Division recommended, they take each individual thing that's different, and they discuss it and then if there's enough interest in it, or they think it's a good idea, if one of them thinks it's a good idea, they'll make a motion to accept whatever that recommendation was, or tweak it a little bit different, and try to incorporate what the RACs wanted, and then it take a second to carry it to a vote, and for most of them, there was no motion at all, and some of them--one that had a motion, but no second. So, unless there's a second, they can't even vote on it.
Charlie Tracy-They let the Division recommendation go into effect basically?
Derris Jones-Right. Anything they don't change, the remainder stays in effect as a Division recommendation.
Bill Bates-At least when they make the motion to accept the presentation.
Todd Huntington -So, I guess I'm kind of confused here on the process. To me, that sounds broken. So, we all travel a long ways, and have spent a lot of time and effort to study issues and vote on an issue, such as the deer on the Manti and San Juan, and that doesn't even come up for a vote?
Bill Bates-That did come up for a vote.
Todd Huntington -No, that didn't come up for a vote. No one made a motion to vote on that.
Derris Jones-But it was discussed. They talked about it for 15-20 minutes--about just the San Juan and LaSal.
Todd Huntington -I spent a couple of hours last night listening to the minutes of the meeting. It just makes no sense to me that we voted on that--8 to 1. That's not split down the middle. That wasn't like the southern region, where it was 7 to 6 and the chairman had to break the tie. Ours was 8 to 1 and that didn't even come up for a vote? There was a proposal where they wanted to create an extra tier in the southern region--the 20-25 and the Wildlife Board member that represented that region says that, "I feel the need to make this motion…" He was kind of resigned to the fact that it wasn't going to pass and he knew it wasn't going to pass and maybe he didn't even agree with it, but he at least made the motion and he got a second and then it got voted down. I guess I'm not upset that we didn't get 18-20 on the Manti or the San Juan. The point is that we didn't even get a vote on it. To me that says, this is kind of a broken process. I don't understand why we're making motions and voting 8 to 1 and not getting it on a vote at the Wildlife Board. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me.
Bill Bates-The only think I can offer, and maybe Derris would rather speak to this, but they were uncomfortable making a change before there was even a season.
Charlie Tracy-But so was I, but I still voted. I still made a motion.
Todd Huntington -We made the change, because we voted a year ago to make it 18-25, and so I think that argument is invalid, because we already changed it before we did anything with it. We didn't even try it at 18-25.
Kevin Albrecht-I too listened to the minutes and the question I have is where did the confusion on the San Juan unit come from?
Derris Jones-What do you mean by confusion?
Kevin Albrecht-I heard the discussion, but where did the comments, that were brought up by the public come from, because we never heard one comment that the public didn't want those units

split. In fact, we only had two people who were opposed, but everyone else at the meeting wanted 18-20, and yet all of a sudden, this comes up, I just wonder where this happened?
Derris Jones-Evidently, they get hundreds of emails on lots of issues that I don't. I know they get a lot of input besides just from the RAC, but they get phone calls and they get those and I assume that's where the pulling opposite directions came from.
Kevin Albrecht-One of the comments you brought up was that you received the phone call or was it the Wildlife Board?
Derris Jones-It was the Board. I received two phone calls. One was from the committee chairman for SFW down there, Terry Ekker, and then one from another person. They were pretty passionate that. They were more concerned about the buck:doe ratio staying the same. That's why I brought that up, so that they could hash it, and at least have that discussion at the Board meeting.
Kevin Albrecht-Like Todd, what upsets me the most is not that one way or the other it went, but that a couple of phone calls of people who don't have the time to come to the meeting, can sway a vote when each one of us at the RAC take so much time to go through those emails. I know they were in the hundreds, and yet someone that couldn't take the time to come to the RAC, can right before the Board meeting, make a few phone calls and have such weight.
Todd Huntington -That to me says the process is broken if that kind of influence can change things. They need to come to the RAC That's what the RAC is set up for, to allow the public time to air their views.
Bill Bates-I guess I'd add one other thing too. Another part of the discussion was that Justin Shannon and Guy Wallace met with representatives of sportsmen in both Moab and San Juan County before the meeting, and they were united in wanting to keep those two units managed the same, so we carried that comment forward.
Todd Huntington -Travis, when he was at the RAC, refuted that and said that it was not necessarily the case. So, were there minutes to these meetings? Who was invited? Who was there? If I'm sending out the invitations, I pretty much know what to expect back.
Bill Bates-What I'd like everyone to know is that there's someone here who has heard every word spoken tonight. He knows how you feel.
Todd Huntington -So are we able to ask Mr. King questions about what happened at the Wildlife Board, or is that off limits?
Derris Jones-We can certainly ask, if he feels comfortable answering. It's up to him. I don't see a problem asking.
Mike King-I'd be happy to answer questions about how I see things.
Todd Huntington -I was just wondering, if you are the southeastern representative on the Board, when we pass something 8 to 1, to me that's a pretty good indication that it should at least be made a motion, and like I said, the southern representative made that motion, even though he maybe didn't agree or felt that it would be defeated, but he respected that vote, and I was just wondering why you didn't make that motion?
Mike King-Well, someone can correct me if I'm wrong, and maybe I need some education, but I don't represent the southeast part of the state. I'm a representative from the southeast, but I'm a state Wildlife Board member, so I think my constituency is the whole state.
Bill Bates-That's appropriate.
Mike King-Is that right? So, that puts me in a pretty interesting position and unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the RAC meeting prior to the Board meeting. However, I did listen to all of it. I read the minutes as well. My personal opinion, when it came to the deer situation, was that it was a pretty complex issue, and that there were a lot of factors that needed to be considered before making that type of decision. You talked about a few of them already. You talked about the interest in managing the LaSals and the San Juan unit at the same buck: doe ratios. That was something that came up. The Board got literally hundreds of emails before the meeting, and some of them were from RAC members and some from people who had been to the meeting here, and there were letters from literally hundreds of people. The majority of the letters that I read were not in favor of that higher buck to doe ratio. Most of them were for more opportunity, and that

wasn't just for the southeast region, that was statewide. Other issues that came up during the discussion were the fact that they found a new case of CWD in the San Juan unit this year, and that's something that has to be looked at, and generally speaking, in those units that have CWD, they manage for a lower buck to doe ratio in an effort to keep older deer at a lower level, because the older deer seem to be more susceptible to the CWD. That's one of the reasons why the LaSals are at that level. So, those kinds of things come up. The Board is charged to look at these issues from a statewide basis and the charge is to look at them from a variety of perspectives. Obviously, the most important of those is managing the wildlife resource, and making sure it's sustainable, and that we have those resources around in perpetuity. But then you have all these other complicating factors that come in. We rely on the Division as the fact-finding body to present us with a biological or scientific basis. That's very important to us obviously. The science behind these decisions is important and we hope that all these recommendations have that scientific base. Another thing that's important obviously is the desires and needs and wants of sportsmen, the hunting and fishing groups. Another is the group that just wants to watch wildlife. Then there's another aspect to that, and that's the economic aspect, and I'm not talking about the Division losing funds, if they cut back on the number of permits. I'm talking about the local economic impacts that wildlife has on a particular area. You eliminate 1,700 permits from southeastern Utah and that has the potential to have a huge economic impact. So there are all those kinds of things that factor in to the decision. Personally, I didn't feel comfortable with the elimination of that many permits, based on the economic issues, based on the loss of opportunity issues, based on the potential for CWD in the future, and the fact that this is a new program. We are just starting out. We don't have any data really to base decisions on, and so that's where I was coming from. I don't know that I need to say any more than that. That's maybe more than I should have already, but that's where I was coming from. If I had made a motion, I can't speak for anyone else; I wouldn't be surprised if nothing would have happened. It wouldn't have gotten a second or it wouldn't have been able to come to a vote, but I personally didn't feel like I was in a position to make a motion for that to come forward.

Kevin Albrecht-One question. I know that in preparing to come to the RAC meeting, you do your best in reading the notes and sometimes you get emails and phone calls, but I know that when I come to the meeting, I don't know what my decision is going to be, and many times it has changed when I go through the process here, hear the DWR's proposal and go through that and maybe ask questions. So I can appreciate that through that process a lot of material is presented, so I can appreciate that there's a lot of stuff that goes on to make that decision, but at the same time, I am wondering what weight the RAC vote have in coming to a decision…you know as a state representative…I'm not just saying southeastern, but for example, if the southern RAC votes one way…what weight does that have in that process?

Mike King-Well, it's hard to say. I know that the Board members take all of those things very seriously. It's important to them and to me to hear what the RACs are thinking. That's obviously a very important factor, but beyond that, I can't give you a weight, and really we were deciding individually how to vote, and we hadn't made up our minds before the meeting. You are pulled in many different directions and it's hard to make a decision. You know you're going to make folks upset regardless of the decision, so that's always a challenge.

Derris Jones-Does anybody have any other questions from Mike while he is here?

Mike King-I know it's hard to feel appreciated when the things you recommend don't get moved on, but they certainly were considered by all Board members, and I'm happy to talk with you any time before those meetings and I did get a chance to talk with a couple of you just the day before the meeting, and being relatively new on the Wildlife Board, I still don't have a relationship with a lot of you, so any time you want to get in touch with me and talk with me, I'm happy to do that, so please feel free to get in touch with me, and I'll try to get in touch with you as well, if I have questions.

Derris Jones-Thanks, Mike. On the Manti, our recommendation was 360 bull permits. The central region wanted more, but I don't have the number they wanted. Then we split the difference.

Bill Bates-They wanted 440, I think.
Justin Shannon-456.
Derris Jones- The Wildlife Board just kind of split the difference and we ended up with 406 tags on the Manti. The reduced Book Cliffs limited entry tags by …
Bill Bates-150, I think. Kevin, do you remember how many they reduced the Book Cliffs by?
Kevin Bunnell--It went to 130. Our recommendation was 150. There was a proposal from one of the sportsman groups for 110. The northeast RAC said 130, and the Board went with the RAC.
Bill Bates-They also reduced the Dutton.
Derris Jones-And that was a discussion with the Beaver. They had a landowner that shot five bulls or something in his haystack, and the Board tried to make a statement by reducing the permits by five, so that sportsmen would know why they were reduced by five, hoping for some peer pressure to keep that from happening again.
The remainder of the bucks and bulls passed.
The antlerless…there was a tie on the 250 cow tags on the Fish Lake…3 to 3 and the chairman voted against it, so it failed. It looks like that was the only change they made on the antlerless. The rest passed. All the other agenda items passed unanimously as presented by the Division. So that's the Board update. Not very organized, but I'll try to get my notes a little better organized next time. Okay, we're ready for the regional update.

4) <u>Regional Update (Informational)</u>
-Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor

Bill Bates-We've had a few changes in aquatics personnel. We hired a new person to be the assistant to the aquatics manager. Paul Birdsey moved to Salt Lake. He took the sportfish coordinator position up there and Justin moved up to be the aquatics manager position, and we've just hired Calvin Black from the northeastern region. He's worked over there on Colorado River cutthroat restoration. We had a very good pool of applicants. We had four internal applicants, all really qualified, but we feel really good about our selection of Calvin. He will be starting toward the end of the month, so we look forward to working with him. We're in the process of hiring a new project leader for the Moab Colorado River fishes project and we hired Mark Beutner, who is out of Klamath Falls, Oregon. He's worked with endangered fish up there for 30 years, both with the Bureau and with the USFWS and so he brings a wealth of experience down here, and we look forward to having him start toward the first of June or a little thereafter. In aquatics, we are almost up to a full staff, right?
Justin Hart-Yes, we are.
Bill Bates-We have almost gone through everybody, but we are finally there.

(Bill Bates continued talking about the variety of work engaged in by the sections in the region. He then presented information on how summer precipitation, forage, and winter severity affected cow weights, next year's calf crop and bull antler growth and mass on the Deseret Land and Livestock Company, per a study by Rick Danver, wildlife biologist.

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>

<u>Questions from the Public</u>

<u>Comments from the Public</u>

<u>RAC Discussion</u>

5) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41 (Action)
-Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones-Questions from the RAC?
Todd Huntington -I've got a question. On the table here, eight has been the maximum, and then on # 4, the option for reducing the number of permits…well I don't know…is there a visa versa…if the OIAL species permits are increasing?
Kevin Bunnell-No, we specifically held that back. If that happens, they'll get their bump in the beginning of the next three years. Part of what we do, Todd, there's a three year program and there's a one year program. So if we see increases during the cycle, there are two groups, there are Ducks Unlimited and the Utah Bowman's Association are only doing it on a one year amount of time, and so if we see increases, we use those increases to allocate a couple of permits to the groups that are in the one year program. We don't give anything to the groups that are already in the multi-year program, which are the SFW, RMEF, and Mule Deer Foundation.
Kevin Albrecht-I don't see it in here, but I think the whole RAC received it, an email from a concerned member of the public that talked about language that would change it from a maximum number to rounding. Can you clarify that?
Kevin Bunnell-Yeah, and that's what I was talking about with that table. The rule used to read a maximum of five percent and a maximum of 10% for the different things. Right or wrong, we've been rounding. That's what the rule said for the last several years, so it appears like a change…all we are trying to do is make it completely transparent on what has been happening and what we plan on continuing to do.
Charlie Tracy-So, when you are looking at 3 on page 3A, where it says the 5 to 14 permits, one conservation. Ten would have been that 10% would have made it the maximum. You've always been going down to 5.
Kevin Bunnell-And like I said, even the legislative auditors, when they looked at the program, they didn't see that as an issue, and that's the way it's been happening. Probably, strictly not in the way the rule read, but operationally, that's the way it's been happening.
Derris Jones-Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

Derris Jones-Do we have questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public

Derris Jones-Okay, we'll go to comments from the public. Thanks, I appreciate your filling out that card. Anybody else who would like to visit or talk about something? If you'd fill out one of these yellow cards, we'd appreciate it.
Troy Justensen of SFW-We would just like the RAC to support the Division in the changes made to the conservation permit rule. We believe this is a huge benefit to all public, both non-consumptive and hunters to put more wildlife on the mountain. We'd encourage you to vote for it.
Derris Jones-Any other comment from the public? Then we'll open it up to the RAC for discussion.

RAC Discussion

Todd Huntington -Is there some reason we are striking "a maximum of" in two places? We are striking language…"a maximum of 10% of the total permits and a maximum of five %", why are we striking that?
Kevin Bunnell-We just put what we thought with the tables in there and showing exactly how it's happening. That was redundant, and it's not really a maximum. It's the way it's been happening and in the strictest sense, we probably weren't in absolute alignment with the way we've been doing it, and that's where the confusion has come. Some people read that as we are trying to grow the program and add conservation permits. We're not. All we're trying to do is add transparency to the rule, so that everybody knows exactly how do you get to 2 or 3, how you get to 4.
Todd Huntington -Thanks for clarifying that, because I was under that impression as well.
Kevin Bunnell-Right. Several people have been, and right or wrong, that's the way we've been doing it.
Derris Jones-Travis wasn't able to be here tonight, but he sent an email. Do you have a copy of it?
Bill Bates-I didn't, but I probably have it on my phone, too. Okay, he says, "I'm not going to make it to the RAC meeting tonight. Would you let them know the only item I am concerned about is the conservation permit rule change. I'm opposed to it and want it to stay as is. Thanks, Travis."
Kevin Albrecht-I think before the meeting, a lot of us may have had the same concerns that Travis may have sent that email on. This did clarify that.
Derris Jones-Personally, I feel the conservation permit program has been a great program. It has allowed the Division to have some funding for things they would have never been able to fund through just their general budget, but I also feel like in this day where opportunity vs. quality is taking opportunity away, I don't think we want to go any higher, so as long as we are staying the status quo on the number of conservation tags, I feel good about supporting it.
Kevin Albrecht-I'll echo that. I am fortunate in being able to put some money on the ground and we through the agencies have an opportunity that we would never have had, so I echo that, but I also, like Derris, have heard from the public a lot of concern about growing that, but I do support keeping that number where we are and am a big supporter of putting that money back on the ground.
Todd Huntington -That almost sounded like a motion.
Kevin Bunnell-And just to clarify this, so it's completely clear, the number is going to continue to go up and down, based on the number of permits that are out there, but we aren't changing the way we are getting to that number at all. That is what is staying consistent. We are calculating them the same way we have been.

VOTING
Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the conservation permit rule amendment as presented
Seconded by Chris Micoz
Motion passed unanimously

6) <u>Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03 (Action)</u>
-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Chief

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
Derris Jones-Questions from the RAC?
Wayne Hoskisson-You listed that it's okay to kill magpies, cowbirds, etc, but it doesn't say anything about the means of doing that, and I'm just wondering about…obviously, you can't shoot them inside city limits in general.
Kevin Bunnell-Right. That would have to be in accordance with either city or county ordinance.

Wayne Hoskisson-Are there any other means of doing it that would be legal?
Kevin Bunnell-I don't know, you'd have to check with the county or city, I think.
Wayne Hoskisson-Could we include the banded doves that we have around here?
Kevin Bunnell-They're not protected, so they are included, and there are some products on the market. Some of them, you have to get through federal agencies for the nuisance birds that are causing damage.
Charlie Tracy-Do you have to get a permit to kill ravens and crows, or are they unprotected too? What's the deal with those?
Kevin Bunnell-Ravens and crows are protected federally. There is a depredation order on one or the other right now. So you can get a permit.
Charlie Tracy-How do you get a permit? Do you have to go to the feds to get that?
Kevin Bunnell-No, we can issue a permit for those, because there's a depredation order. If there wasn't a depredation order, then we wouldn't be able to do anything about it.
Derris Jones-Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Any questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Any comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion from the RAC? Motion?

VOTING
Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Collection, Importation and Possession Rule amendment as presented.
Seconded by Charlie Tracy
Motion passed unanimously

7) Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57 (Action)
-Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief

Questions from the RAC
Derris Jones-Any questions from the RAC?
Todd Huntington -On those convention tags, they fell under the bonus point restoration waiting period waiver. You don't have bonus points there, and correct me if I'm wrong, especially with sheep, there's no waiting period…I mean if you draw a sheep tag at the convention, there's not waiting period anyway, right?
Greg Sheehan -There isn't there, but if you draw a convention OIAL, we do make you ineligible to go back to the Division and apply, so you can keep drawing at the convention, but you can't come back and apply for that species again through the big game draw, so this would say, oh, you can't hunt, so you turned it in, now you are back to being eligible to apply for that sheep with your 14 points in that different world, so that's kind of the waiting period waiver.
Derris Jones-The one day of hunting, is that an honor system type thing?
Greg Sheehan -It kind of has to be really. A lot of this kind has to be the honor system. Are you really injured bad enough that you couldn't have participated, that's what we look at a lot. You sprained your ankle. Does spraining your ankle mean you're kind of like gimping around or did you really sprain it seriously and you can't even step on it, you know, and some things are

obvious, and in honesty, this isn't a heavily abused system. Most of these people have had very serious situations. They aren't' coming to us with sprained ankles, these are cancer; car wrecks…typically very serious situations. So we're not trying to undermine it, we just don't want to keep pushing all these permits out into future years. That's what we are trying to get at here.
Derris Jones-Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion or motion?

VOTING
Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept the Division Variance Rule Amendments as presented.
Seconded by Kevin Albrecht
Motion passed unanimously

8) Deer Management Plans (Action)
-Justin Shannon, Regional Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC
Derris Jones-Any questions from the RAC?
Kevin Albrecht-So basically that analysis will be on a five year rotation, based on the region…what the range crew does?
Justin Shannon-Yeah, so right now, the range trend crew goes from one region to the next every five years. So every five years, we have a heavy in-depth analysis of our habitat conditions. The year following that, we will update our management plan, so that way, we are just trying to get back to managing mule deer to the habitat, which is the best management concept.
Derris Jones-So the next time we review the management plan for southeast Utah will be 2015?
Justin Shannon-Yes, that's right.
Bill Bates-I just have a question on the boundary for the San Juan unit. Does it reflect the one that was passed by the Wildlife Board last fall?
Justin Shannon-Yeah, it does reflect the change that we made last year, where it comes. It doesn't go north of Moab and come down the Kane Springs Wash, yeah…
Derris Jones-Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-From the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion or motion from the RAC?

VOTING
Motion was made by Pam Riddle to accept the Deer Management Plans as presented.
Seconded by Wayne Hoskisson
Motion passed unanimously

9) Elk Management Plans (Action)
-Justin Shannon, Regional Wildlife Program Manager

Questions from the RAC
Derris Jones-Questions from the RAC?
Wayne Hoskisson- So about five years, they've been working with cattlemen in the Tusher Range and our conclusion was that we would ask the DWR to decrease the number of elk in that unit. I don't think I've ever seen any inclination of the DWR to do that. This was the decision by many stake holders in a very long process. And yet it doesn't seem to be happening. I'm curious, does the DWR really think that the Tusher Range is not overstocked with ungulates?
Justin Shannon-I wish I could speak to that, but I don't know that area.
Kevin Albrecht-I was just going to say, I can't speak to the Tusher, but I do know that on the Manti, we do have a high number of elk, close to 12,000, but we have, instead of cow grazing, have sheep grazing with 45,000 sheep permitted on the mountain with only 10 allotments for cattle. We do see an amazing recruitment of aspen. I think that is one of your questions, so for what's that's worth. I can't speak to the Beaver or Tusher.
Derris Jones-Any other questions?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Questions from the audience?
Eric Luke-I'm just representing myself. Justin, do the increases here also represent one of the factors in the habitat work that has been done in those areas? I know the Fish Lake in particular, there has been a tremendous amount of work done. Is that a deciding factor for raising the numbers as well?
Justin Shannon-Yeah, that's definitely a part of it. I heard some numbers a week or two ago on what we've done statewide for big game and it was in the neighborhood of $70,000,000 and 600,000 acres over the last seven years or so. I don't think we would recommend increases if our agency felt that the habitat couldn't support it.

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Any comments from the audience?
Troy Justensen-representing SFW: I had the opportunity to sit on several of these committees on the elk, and I attended the RAC meeting last night in the southern region. In speaking specifically about the Fish Lake and some of those there, Director Karpowitz stated in the Board meeting last week that a total of 16 million dollars and over 220 thousand acres had been treated in that particular area. There was some confusion amongst the BLM and USFS about habitat restoration and if there was ample feed to increase the elk and grazing there, and then some of the upper level employees within the BLM and USFS said that that's not the fact…we are opposed to it, so there was some discrepancy there. It's SFW's position that we would ask the RAC to vote to support the Division's recommendation here. SFW has invested a lot of dollars within this to grow this herd and we are sympathetic to the ranchers and the cattlemen too, and think that forage is available and that their allotments ought to be restored also.
Derris Jones-Any other comments?

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones-Discussion from the RAC?
Charlie Tracy-How many of those allotments have been increased? Would you guys know anything about that?
Paul Birdsey-I was at the meeting also. It's my understanding that many of those grazing allotments have been cut based on the discussion last night and that's what Troy was referring to is that there appears to be some differences in the federal agencies as to what the effects of the habitat improvements have been and how they are going to allocate any additional forage between wildlife and domestic animals. This discussion was about a two hour long discussion last night and in the end, the RAC did vote 6 to 5 to support it. Obviously with that kind of number, there was a fair amount of dissention.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Elk Management Plans as presented. Seconded by Pam Riddle

Motion passed 4 to 3. Dissenting votes were cast by Wayne Hoskisson, Charlie Tracy and Todd Huntington

10) Cold Springs and Upper San Rafael WMA Plans-Southeast Region (Action)
-Makeda Hanson, Habitat Biologist

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones-Questions from the RAC?
Todd Huntington -So do you need us to pass one of the options as far as the grazing plan goes, is that what you are asking us to do?
Makeda Hanson-I don't think so, I think we have those in our plans, so when we have issues in the future, we can select one of those options, because if we just put one, that would be what we had to use, so it leaves us options to manage our property.
Bill Bates-Makeda, it might be good to indicate what we are leaning toward doing.
Makeda Hanson-As far as I know, we are leaning toward options 2 and 4.
Bill Bates-I saw Chris nod his head.
Makeda Hanson -Okay, so options 2 and 4. That was the MOU with the adjacent permittee as well as fencing off the springs to protect them from resource damage.
Charlie Tracy-The adjacent permittee, is he okay with that?
Makeda Hanson -Yeah, it's actually Blair Eastman, and we've met with him privately to discuss these different options and he's agreed to what the plan says.
Bill Bates-He actually proposed fencing a lot of those springs.
Kevin Albrecht-I'm just wondering if I heard that right, so you can camp on the ROW, but there is no backcountry camping?
Makeda Hanson -Correct.
Charlie Tracy-What do you mean that you can camp on the ROW? I don't get that? You camp in the middle of the road?
Makeda Hanson -Well, there's a 50 foot ROW on each side of the road.
Charlie Tracy-So as long as you don't go 50 feet off the road you're okay?
Makeda Hanson -As far as I understand. Is that correct?
Chris Wood-(inaudible. He was in the back of the room.)
JD Abbott-(inaudible. He was in the back of the room.)

Charlie Tracy-Well, it just doesn't make sense that you don't have any overnight camping.
Derris Jones-Essentially, the ROW is owned by Carbon County. It's actually a deeded ROW. Carbon County owns a 50 foot segment, so DWR has no say in what occurs on there.
Charlie Tracy-So it's heavily traveled? Are there a lot of people on there?
Derris Jones-Yeah, it's kind of a loop route for OHV trips to go down Nine Mile and come back up Dry Canyon.
Chris Micoz-Are there a lot of wild horses?
Makeda Hanson -There are. I don't have a population estimate. I know that the BLM wants a population of around 125 horses, but it's far above that from what I've been told and what I've seen.
Brad Crompton-There are about 100 horses on each ridge.

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion or motion from the RAC?
Charlie Tracy-So we are just voting on the idea? We need clarification on exactly what we are voting on.
Derris Jones-In my understanding, it's the management plan highlights. It's a tool the Division uses to make decisions in management of their properties, and it's like all agencies who don't know what questions will be in the future, they try to keep it broad and open as possible so that decisions don't leave your hands tied. I think that's what they are asking us to approve. All decisions on that WMA will adhere to the management plan.
Bill Bates-It's a general direction that gives you a sense on where we are headed.

VOTING
Motion was made by Pam Riddle to approve the Cold Springs WMA Plan as presented.
Seconded by Todd Huntington
Motion passed unanimously

Upper San Rafael Wildlife Management Plan
-Makeda Hanson

Questions from the RAC
Charlie Tracy-How are you on your water rights? How are you maintaining your water rights, if you are just letting it flow down river? Does the state let you do that?
Makeda Hanson -Yeah.
Paul Birdsey-Those water rights are a unique water right within the State of Utah in that state engineers granted us the right to use that water for irrigation or to be left in the stream as in-stream flow. The Division is one of only two agencies that can hold an in-stream flow, so that's what the primary purpose of the water is throughout the San Rafael properties. We leave water in there for fish habitat.
Bill Bates-Charlie, just a side note to that though. In order to make the in-stream flow, the state engineer required us to relinquish our priority on the water rights. It went from a senior water right to the junior water right on the system, so we basically have water in the system after everybody else is done with it.

Charlie Tracy-Do you get very much after that?
Bill Bates-It depends on the year. It does go dry down below Hwy 24 some years.
Derris Jones-Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion and motion.
Charlie Tracy-This looks like a huge head ache. Why did we take this on? I mean, was it just that nobody else wanted it?
Wayne Hoskisson-It was also a large chunk on the San Rafael River going east from the Hatt Ranch, so there's a large chunk there, that probably wasn't wanted, but came with it.
Bill Bates-Basically, the biggest benefit we get is the ability to manage water for the state sensitive species in the river, and that's kind of where our management has focused. Down at Frenchman's and the Hatt Ranch, we have taken out a lot of the tamarisk and we reestablished the river into its historic channel and we're working with Hatts to change the diversion, maybe go to pump irrigation or something like that in the future and so basically what we are trying to do is manage the riverine system to benefit many wildlife species.
Derris Jones-When that property was obtained by the Division, it came with big BLM allotments, and they were given back to livestock people, so it kept the grazing on the San Rafael desert.

VOTING
Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the management plan on the Upper San Rafael WMA as presented.
Seconded by Kevin Albrecht
Motion passed unanimously

Derris Jones-While Chris is coming up, I told you at the beginning, if any of you would like to make a statement in the record, you're free to do so, as far as why you voted against the elk management plan.

11) Watershed Restoration Initiative Projects Presentation (Information)
-Chris Wood, Habitat Program Manager

Questions from the RAC
Derris Jones-Is this an action item?
Chris Wood-I don't think it's an action item.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

12) Ferron Creek Introduction-Southeast Region (Action)
-Justin Hart, Regional Aquatics Manager

Questions from the RAC
Derris Jones-Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public
Derris Jones-Questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public
Derris Jones-Comments from the audience?

RAC Discussion
Derris Jones-Discussion or Motion?
Kevin Albrecht-I'll make one comment. I do know that this has been a tremendous amount of work by the Division and a lot of public scoping and getting comments and the one comment I would make is, I do realize there is going to be a little bit of time that anglers may be inconvenienced but I support Justin in the fact that in the long term we are really going to say what a great Colorado cutthroat fishery that we have for just a little bit of time of inconvenience and I think that just as we've done with the sage-grouse, I think it's a great project and you guys have done a great job.
Derris Jones-Are there active petitions out there to try and list the Colorado cutthroat?
Justin Hart-They pop up occasionally.
Paul Birdsey-The last petition there is still wending its way back to federal court. The USFWS came back and said it wasn't warranted. The petitioners waited a year and then took it back to federal court and it's in their hands, and who knows where it's going to end up. We honestly believe that it's only through projects like this that it won't be listed.

VOTING
Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to support the Ferron Creek Introduction as presented.
Seconded by Pam Riddle
Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.
Public in attendance: 5

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on June 6 at the DNR Salt Lake office auditorium at 1594 West North Temple at 9 a.m.

The next southeast regional RAC meeting will take place on August 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Moab Grand Center at 182 N. 500 W. in Moab

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY-MOTIONS PASSED
BINGHAM CENTER, Vernal/May 10, 2012

5. CONSERVATION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS R657-41

MOTION to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

6. COLLECTION, IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION RULE

MOTION to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

Encourage creating video informing students in college courses of study and putting information on YouTube to inform the public.

7. DIVISION VARIANCE RULE AMENDMENTS R657-57

MOTION to approve as presented

Passed 5 to 1

(Would like to see an amendment added for season extension)

8. DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS

MOTION to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

9. ELK MANAGEMENT PLANS

MOTION to accept the plan as presented

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY
Bingham Entrepreneurship & Energy Research Center (Bingham Center), Vernal
May 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m.

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:
Bob Christensen, Forest Service
Carrie Mair, At-Large
Wayne McAllister, At Large
Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive
Floyd Briggs, RAC Chair
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor
Ron Winterton, Elected Official
Beth Hamann, Non-Consumptive

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Kirk Woodward, Sportsmen
Brandon McDonald, BLM
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture

DWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:
Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief
Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Chief
Greg Sheehan, Admin Services Section Chief
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist
Lowell Marthe, NER Wildlife Biologist
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Biologist
Amy VandeVoort, NER Wildlife Biologist
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach
Bryan Clyde, NER Law Enforcement

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:
Del Brady

1.WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE – Floyd Briggs, NER RAC Chair

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES – Floyd Briggs, NER RAC Chair
Motion to Approve by Beth Hamann
Second by Carrie Mair
Favor Unanimous

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE – Floyd Briggs, NER RAC Chair
Deer Management Plan was accepted as presented by DWR, statewide 18 and 1.
On the Book Cliffs deer tag and elk tag motion, the Board went with motion to reduce elk tags to 130 but deer motion to cut by 50 failed. Comments: the Book Cliffs unit was once closed and then opened. It was talked about, so next time it comes around, if we have a concern, that should be fresh on the mind of the Board.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE – Boyde Blackwell, NER Regional Supervisor

Coyotes:

There is a lot of interest in coyotes in the legislature and they passed two bills: one was a $5 increase on big game permit fees; the other was to increase the amount of money to a bounty program or predator control. It would not be a county program; it would be a DWR program. We don't have a lot of information on it yet. The bill will go into effect July 1. We're going to try to put an emphasis on where it will do the most good. We will be working with Wildlife Services, doing research and collecting information to determine if it works.

Aquatics:

The cutthroat are now staging at Lake Canyon and eggs are being collected.

The lake trout survey starts today. If anyone is interested in working with fisheries folks, contact Ron Stewart 435-790-0207 or call at the office 435-781-9453.

The biologists are doing a Diamond Mountain creel survey four times a month Matt Warner and Calder through November.

State Parks will be assisting in AIS program now.

Game:

The biologists are finished collecting data on sage grouse and deer and will be compiling it.

Moving:

We'll be in our new office at 318 North Vernal Avenue starting Monday, June 4. We will have the same main number of 435-781-9453 (WILD) but all other office numbers will be different.

Carrie Mair: Which license will have the $5 increase?

Kevin Bunnell: All big game permits, both antlered and antlerless.

5. CONSERVATION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS R657-41 – Kevin Bunnell

Only 5% of DWRs permits are offered to nonresidents and it's because of the success of this program.

2011 Legislative Audit highly approved this program.

Questions from RAC:
None

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from Public:
Troy Justensen: (SFW): We would like to see you adopt the changes as recommended by the Division.

Josh Horrocks (Sportsman, outfitter, and cattle rancher): There is a problem with the conservation permit program with the NE cougar permit to be auctioned for conservation dollars. It is only good for limited entry units for cougars. We don't have a limited entry unit for cougars in the NER nor do we want one, but we would like to see it in split units.

Kevin Bunnell: You were misinformed. Conservation permits are for any open unit. They can go onto split units or harvest objective units as long as they haven't closed yet. There are now eight cougar management areas. Those are more defined areas. Units don't cross boundaries.

Josh Horrocks: At our SFW banquet I purchased the NER cougar conservation permit. Byron Bateman looked into it and said we couldn't use it on the split unit until it opened after the limited unit ended and we were into the harvest objective hunt, so I didn't have to pay for it.

Kevin Bunnell: If you had an area that was all harvest objective there would be no point. You would be paying a great deal of money to hunt with all the others who just paid for a harvest objective tag. You were misinformed. It is good on the limited entry/split entry units.

Randall Thacker: There is a limited entry unit in the Northeastern Region. The Current Creek unit in the Northeastern Region is a limited entry unit and always has been, so you were misinformed.

Carrie Mair: Can they NOT charge for a conservation tag?

Kevin Bunnell: There is a penalty that would occur if they did that. They bid on a tag. If they give it away, they are issued a penalty and they get on a lower position of assigning tags the next time around.

MOTION by Carrie Mair to accept as presented
Beth Hamann second.
Favor: Unanimous.

6. COLLECTION, IMPORTATION AND POSSESSION RULE AMENDMENTS R657-03 – Paul Birdsey, Cold Water Sports Fisheries Program Chief

The program was brought out a year ago and since then, some changes are being recommended.

Questions from RAC:

Carrie Mair: You're no longer allowed to transport porcupines or squirrels? There are people who refuse to kill a raccoon in their window well. What would you say to do in that situation?

Kevin Bunnell: There are companies that will do it for you. There are disease issues and a lot of liability. We don't want the public handling raccoons and moving animals. The options are to handle them lethally or contact companies who move them for you.

Carrie Mair: Who do they call?

Kevin Bunnell: A pest control company.

Floyd Briggs: On private fish ponds, how much will the rule affect private fish ponds?

Paul Birdsey: Not too much. For people who already have fish ponds, it changes the definition of what is an ornamental. Other fish have potential negative impacts for native fish and for sport fish populations.

Floyd Briggs: Are there two definitions of sport fish ponds?

Paul Birdsey: For ponds that are in conservation areas i.e. areas where there may be native cutthroat trout, those require certificates of registration.

For areas outside of conservation areas, there's a list of species they can use but they're not required to get a COR. They can contact DWR get an exemption certificate and it's done over the counter.

Carrie Mair: What are the legal ramifications of transporting sports fish into your private fish ponds?

Paul Birdsey: It's a Class B Misdemeanor if you're caught transporting them and a Class A if you're caught stocking them into a public waterway.

Carrie Mair: I would encourage forming a video informing students into college courses of study to inform them.

Paul Birdsey: I think that's an excellent idea.

Carrie Mair: If it is put on YouTube it could reach many people.

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from RAC:
None

Comments from Public:
None

MOTION by Bob Christensen to accept as presented
Ron Winterton Second
Favor: Unanimous

7. DIVISION VARIANCE RULE AMENDMENTS R657-57 – Greg Sheehan

Questions from RAC:

Carrie Mair: How many once-in-a-lifetime permits are allocated annually?

Greg Sheehan: A few hundred.

Carrie Mair: So it's a negligible number. How many points does it take to draw a once-in-a-lifetime moose tag?

Greg Sheehan: To be guaranteed you'd need 19 points. Any other would be variable.

Carrie Mair: It's a very large amount of time.

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from RAC:

Carrie Mair: I feel if it takes someone two decades to draw out, a season extension due to injury wouldn't be outside the realm of possibility. Say the day you get up to hunt you break your back and appeal to the Board. The way this is written you would have your bonus points restored but could not have a season extension.

Greg Sheehan: If you met those criteria you could extend it without going to the Board.

Carrie Mair: Since there are so few tags, I don't see that blocking the system.

Andrea Merrell: If they are injured and they get a variance, they don't get a refund?

Greg Sheehan: There are no refunds. If you're injured and surrender your tag, you get your money back but not all the variances. If we give everybody their money back, we start having a financial problem. The biggest factor is, "What's happening to my opportunity," not, "getting my money back."

Floyd Briggs: I've seen some variance requests at the Board meeting that I've rolled my eyes over, so I'm glad to see you refining the rule. This will eliminate a lot of the variance requests that go to the Board, right?

Greg Sheehan: Yes.

MOTION by Ron Winterton to approve as presented
Wayne McAllister second
Favor: Ron Winterton, Andrea Cook, Bob Christensen, Beth Hamann, Wayne McAllister

Carrie Mair: I would like to see an amendment added for a season extension

Motion passed 5 - 1

8. DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS – Randall Thacker

Questions from RAC:
Wayne McAllister: Is the boundary change for next year?

Randall Thacker: It's for this year. The website shows the new boundary.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Floyd Briggs: When we do our buck/doe ratios in the fall, during the fall in the rut when you go to the Manila area, beings we border with the Three-Corners area, I don't know how accurate the buck/doe ratio can be because a lot come out of Wyoming. If you do a ratio south of Sheep Creek vs. North of Sheep Creek, I'd like to see the difference.

Randall Thacker: You should work with Lowell and see how much of an issue it is. Every unit has their own unique personality. Every unit has their own safe spots, whether it's Tribal land, another state, private property. Lots of units have those factors. It's still our best way to manage, during that time of year during the rut.

Floyd Briggs: Do you feel that Unit 8 is doing well?

Randall Thacker: It is doing better than most of the units in our region. Most of our other units are 60% of objective, where that one is 80% of objective.

Floyd Briggs: The County has been paying a bounty for a lot of years. It can't hurt.

Del Brady: A month ago at the RAC you had a couple ranchers from the Blue Mountain area, Chews at the Colorado border and the Dinosaur National Monument. They wanted to make a change. Is this the time to do that?

Boyde Blackwell: This could be a time for the discussion. Two days after the meeting they talked with Charlie and me and the biologist over the area and we're going to have them get together and talk about their concerns and look at issues. There wasn't enough time between meetings; they will have something by November.

BETH HAMANN MOTION to accept as presented
Carrie Mair second
Favor: Unanimous

9. ELK MANAGEMENT PLANS – Randall Thacker

Questions from RAC:

Carrie Mair: Are they seeing massive detriment to aspen?

Randall Thacker: Some areas there are concerns. The Forest has been doing some research and there are also other factors, but elk can have an impact.

Questions from Public:

J.C. Brewer: On Unit 17, where you're recommending an increase in elk numbers, I didn't see how the deer herd was doing on that same unit.

Randall Thacker: The deer unit has been fairly stagnant. It's decreased in long-term but it's a very unique unit. We did a whole radio-collar study and we found it's a wintering unit for deer from other units. None of the deer collared stayed on those units in the summer or the fall. The elk do the same thing. It's a struggling unit and has been struggling for at least 25+ years. That whole south of Highway 40 portion seems to be struggling.

J.C. Brewer: I question increasing wildlife numbers on a unit where we're having problems with another species. The Book Cliffs has a limited amount of aspen. I have felt the elk were 80% of the problem of no regeneration of young trees. If the studies show a significant effect is there a possibility of decreasing elk?

Randall Thacker: This Board could do whatever it wants to do. Most likely there would be a committee formed that would meet at least six months prior. They would include the data and parties and work through to come up with a population recommendation.

Dax Mangus: The study is being done through USU and the Division provided some input but I don't think they'll implement the study until next year. It's a three year study. It will be done before the plan comes up for review in five years.

J.C. Brewer: When is the study going to end?

Dax Mangus: I can find out and let you know for sure.

Floyd Briggs: Has money been spent on habitat regeneration for aspen?

Randall Thacker: That's probably the future focus is the aspen regeneration because we are losing it in some places.

Bob Christensen: We did a little bit on Anthro.

Floyd Briggs: Aspen are pretty delicate aren't they?

Beth Hamann: Dave Palmer is working on the study. You can call him.

Bob Christensen: On the deer, with Avintaquin, and increasing the elk objective and the impact it had on deer was discussed.

Randall Thacker: Our biggest problem is not creating them but killing enough antlerless animals to control them.

Comments from Public:
Troy Justensen (SFW): We ask the RAC to support the Division's recommendations.

Josh Horrocks (Sportsman, outfitter, cattle rancher): We support the Division and hope the RAC does too with their recommendations. We want to put more animals on the mountain.

MOTION by Beth to accept plan as presented
Bob Christensen second
Favor: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 8:25 pm.

Boyde Blackwell: You're going to be getting an e-mail shortly for a RAC social. Be thinking about the best days for you. I'm looking for a day in July. And be thinking of a place to have it. I'm thinking of Remember the Maine.

Carrie Mair: I'll cater for you.

Floyd Briggs: I would like to have something like two years ago when we had an investigator tell us about a poaching operation which had just been completed.

Boyde Blackwell: That's a good idea. We'll look into it.

Next meeting: August 2, 2012

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S Main Street, Springville
May 15, 2012 ↬ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written

Passed unanimously

Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41

MOTION: To accept the recommended changes except that the maximum of five and ten percent are maintained and that a table is adopted to make it more visible that reflect those maximum percentages

Failed 7 to 2

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations for rocky mountain big horn sheep and desert big horn sheep and use the hard five percent limit for all other conservation species as well as the balance of the recommendations

Passed 7 to 2

MOTION: That it is put in rule that an annual report be published in reference to the conservation program that it lists from start to finish how the permits are allocated, the percentages that are allocated, where the money goes and what projects are accomplished with that money

Passed unanimously

Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented

Passed unanimously

Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception that OIAL species would be eligible for a season extension

Passed unanimously

Deer Management Plans

MOTION: To accept the deer management plans as presented

Passed unanimously

Elk Management Plans

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented

Passed 8 to 1

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S Main Street, Springville
May 15, 2012 ↬ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent
Matt Clark, Sportsmen	Timothy Fehr, At large excused
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service	Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture excused
Michael Gates, BLM	Kristofer Marble, At large excused
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen	
Richard Hansen, At large	
George Holmes, Agriculture	
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair	
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair	
Jay Price, Elected	
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive	

Others Present
John Bair, Wildlife Board member

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1) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)
- **Fred Oswald, RAC Chair**

VOTING
Motion was made by Gary Nielson to accept the agenda as written
Seconded by Matt Clark
Motion passed unanimously

2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)
- **Fred Oswald, RAC Chair**

3) Regional Update (Information)
- **John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor**

Wildlife
- Range rides winding down (check with Craig Clyde for details)
- Spring deer classification completed (fawn survival favorable due to mild winter)
- Sage-grouse lek counts completed (counts remain below average)
- Pronghorn flight surveys completed
- No new "large canine" sightings or information to pass along

Habitat
- Range trend studies to be carried out in the Central Region this year
- Livestock grazing offered on several WMAs, begins mid-May
- Large number of habitat projects funded for this year, planning ongoing
- West Desert guzzlers turned on this week (big game and upland game)

Aquatics
- Cabelas' (Wanna' Go Fishing for Millions?) tagged fish contests at Utah Lake and Grantsville Res. (May 5-July 8)
- Tagged fish contest planned by another sponsor at Strawberry starts May 25th

- Utah Lake Field Day for elementary school kids was successful
- Fishing Open Houses (May 22 @ CRO, May 24 @ Salt Lake Office)
- Little Dell native cutthroat spawning project coming up soon

Conservation Outreach

- Provo cougar stories in the news
- Salem Pond Fishing Day very successful
- 104-year old angler story at Strawberry
- Utah Lake Festival/Free Fishing Day June 2

Law Enforcement

- Antler and hide sale at the Lee Kay Center generated over $100,000 in sales

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

- **Kevin Bunnell, Wildlife Section Chief**

Questions from the RAC

Karl Hirst – Thanks for coming tonight Kevin. In the effort of full disclosure I would like to say that I am a supporter of this program, I like what is happening here, I like the projects, I like the highway projects and the overpasses, and I like the research. I am a supporter of the conservation program. With that said as we proceed here it may look different with some of the questions I have. I appreciate Kevin and Greg answering my questions I have had. Again in the effort of full disclosure, I put out over the internet a request that if people had facts surrounding inappropriate appropriation of these tags they could get with me and I would do the research for that. Greg provided me with the information and in every case that people brought to me that said they had facts, they proved false and they all proved to be rumors. I think that was a good supporting factor for this program. There are lots of rumors, there's lots of smoke, there's lots of haze and mystery with this but in every case that I have done research it proved false and nothing but rumors. Now the questions, Kevin. I have bounced this rule off a couple dozen people and have received a whole bunch of interpretations of how this rule could apply. The first interpretation that came is that you would combine all of the once-in-a-lifetime (OIAL) tags, let's say desert sheep into about 44 or 46 tags and then apply that to the table in the rule. Is that one way to interpret this rule?

Kevin Bunnell – That is one way but the way it has been going in the past is the rule allows specifically for sheep areas to combine units to reach the threshold to issue a conservation permit. The way that has been being done is just the minimum areas combined to get to the level you can issue a conservation tag. I talked to Alan today and I think the most that have ever been combined is three.

Karl Hirst – So that leads into the other question. You could have a unit with five permits and issue a conservation permit which would be one conservation tag and four public tags so that would be a 20 percent allotment for that specific area for that unit.

Kevin Bunnell – It would.

Karl Hirst – So a third way to interpret that is to combine a couple of units to hit that five and then you would have one and four spread out over two or three units. So if there were three units that were combined you could have one with one permit, one with two permits and one of those would be a conservation permit so that would be a 50 percent allotment on that specific unit.

Kevin Bunnell – The way it has been is the conservation permit can hunt all three combined units.

Karl Hirst – But it would take one from that unit. My explanation there is that since this rule can be interpreted in three different ways and applied three ways that adds to the fog and the haze and the mystery of this program.

Kevin Bunnell – Suggestions to clarify are very welcome.

Karl Hirst – In reference to the audit that was conducted, if you read the findings on that in and of itself it describes itself as a limited audit. Limited is used a bunch of times. In fact in that audit when it looked at does this program reduce the opportunity for sportsmen to draw in its findings it only lists five deer units and five elk units.
Kevin Bunnell – As examples, but they did look at many more but they couldn't put all of them in there so they used five to illustrate their point.
Karl Hirst – Which also adds to the haze and the fog. It doesn't mention that. It only lists deer and elk and then the side thing says in the case of deer and elk it does not affect draw ability.
Kevin Bunnell – Don't confuse the legislative auditors who produced the report wit the Division. All we did is look at it when it came.
Karl Hirst – I completely understand, I am not confusing it at all it is that it adds to the smoke and the haze surrounding this program. The other thing with that audit is that it only looked at three units in the state as to whether the money was used appropriately out of hundreds.
Kevin Bunnell – Greg could probably answer how in depth they looked at that.
Karl Hirst – Again, it's just the fog and everything with this program.
Kevin Bunnell – It's a complex program.
Karl Hirst – It is also interesting to note that of the ten examples they used, three of them were over appropriated over the five percent rule. So 30 percent of the examples they used violate the rule.
Kevin Bunnell – If you went on the strict percent. Again the way the rule read when I got it seemed inconsistent with the way it had been implemented which is exactly why I recommended removing the word maximum and adding the table so there is no more smoke and haze as you would say.
Karl Hirst – I appreciate it. Kevin, we talked today and both of us have the same goal, to remove that haze and smoke from this and bring it out into the light and make this a very beneficial program. Looking at the tables for desert big horn starts at five. That in 50 percent of the cases will allow for an over allocation of tags and it will allow an under allocation the other 50 percent of the time. Another way to look at that is we are right only half of the time. I really struggle with voting on something that statistically says I'm wrong 50 percent of the time. I am going to let other people ask questions here but I'll put out an example of a way to design that so we are right, mathematically, every time.

Comments from the Public

Jason Hawkins – I am a lifelong Utah resident, avid hunter and sportsman and appreciate the chance to come and speak to you tonight. I'm here to talk about the conservation permit program and the proposed revisions to the statute. I would like to say at the beginning I feel like Karl. I know the program has done a lot of good things and has funded a lot of valuable projects but I have some concerns about the proposed language and about how the permits have been issued in the past. I heard several months ago that people were talking about the Division issuing permits in excess of the statutory cap in the statute. As we started digging into that I heard there was a proposed change that was going to clean up this issue. What I was expecting when I saw the revised statute was that the statute would impose the cap in a very clear way so that it would be imposed and not violated. What I was surprised to see was the statute was being changed to basically authorize the conduct on the part of the Division to take away that hard cap and allow the Division to keep issuing tags in excess of the five percent and the ten percent maximums that were set forth in the statute. I don't think that is right especially when you start combining sheep units. You could have up to 20 percent of the tags on a single unit going to conservation permits. On any deer or elk unit you could have nine percent of the tags, well in excess of the five percent. I think there should be a hard cap and it should be imposed at five percent and ten percent and the Division should live by that. I am not being critical of anyone who presented or anyone in the Division but they should know what the statute says. To come here and say that we saw that the statute wasn't in line with what was being done, that is not acceptable. We need to know what

the rules are and we need to play by the rules. The second point I would like to make is that in the revised language it talks about there is an option that conservation permits may be reduced for OIAL permits if there is a decrease in the general permit numbers. I don't know why the language there is permissive. If there is a decrease in tags and the public takes a cut in tags because herd numbers are down, the conservation permits should be reduced. It should be mandatory language; it should say shall be reduced. These tags are there to benefit the animals and to benefit the general public. If the wildlife board makes a decision to reduce tags because our herd numbers are down it should be across the board. There shouldn't be preferential treatment for these groups and the people who purchase these tags. The third point I would like to make is why is the option to reduce permits limited to OIAL species? If there is a decrease in permits on units for deer or elk and the general public take a cut on that because it is for the good of the animals then the conservation permits should be reduced also. Once again there shouldn't be preferential treatment for these groups or the hunters who are able to buy these tags. The fourth point I would like to make is I have trouble with these multi year permits. I think many of the problems we are seeing are the result of the fact that we are doing multi year permits. In the general draw we apply and wait several months for the wildlife board to set the number of tags so we know how many permits are available before they do the draw. It should be the same with these conservation permits. We should wait until they have done their herd counts and they set the number of tags and then everyone should play by the same rules. If there is a decrease in tags it should apply across the board to everyone. The final thing I would like to say here is I don't know the exact numbers but I think we are approaching 350 conservation permits that are taken out of the general draw and are set aside to raise money for wildlife conservation. Certainly there should be some of these permits and they fund some very valuable projects and these groups do some wonderful things but we have more conservation permits that are sold for the highest dollar here in this state than all the western states combined. There are too many of them. I think there should be a substantial reduction in these. If you did, the price of individual tags would go up. You can go to any SFW banquet and there will be a paunsaugunt tag for sale. If you go there to buy a tag and the price is too high you wait and go to the next auction. If we had a substantial reduction in these permits I think you would see the price of an individual tag go up. There doesn't need to be 300 tags out there. In closing I would like to say I know these tags raise money for valuable projects. I know the groups that are involved do some wonderful things and there are great things they are doing to benefit wildlife and those benefits trickle down to the general public but at the end of the day these are there to benefit wildlife and animals. These groups are tax exempt charitable organizations that are set up to benefit these animals and benefit the general public. The rules should not be applied in a way that gives preferential treatment to these groups, that is not right. The tail should not be wagging the dog. They should be treated the same as the general public. Even the way the language is drafted is very poorly drafted. I am not being critical of whoever drafted it but Karl pointed out very well that it can be interpreted many different ways. We will still have the same problems under the revised language and I think we should take the time to draft a language with a hard statutory cap and live by those rules and get the language cleaned up so it is clear once and for all.

Troy Justensen – I have some personal comments as well as representing SFW. First of all I appreciate Karl bringing out those points. SFW has been a strong advocate of the conservation permit program and what it's done but if there are things we can do to better clarify the rule so it is easier to act in accordance with it we're all in favor of that, we support that. Speaking on my own relating to the sheep program, I am a very avid sheep hunter. I love sheep and there is nothing I would rather hunt more than sheep. The reason Utah has the sheep herd it has today is solely because of the conservation permit program. If it needs to be revisited and gone through to where we can make rules specific for this species to allow us to sale 'x' amount of permits it needs to be done. Had we not had this conservation permit rule for the last ten years I guarantee you would have a quarter of the sheep tags in the state of Utah. Utah FNAWS has done a

phenomenal job in funding transplants and raising money to provide sheep for the average Joe to hunt. Without these conservation permits many of us wouldn't have that experience and I hope to have that experience one day on my own. Going back to the conservation permit rule and SFW, we would encourage the RAC to discuss that and if there is some clarity that needs to be made and some changes we ask you to voice your opinion and ask the Division to come back with it but as a whole we support the conservation permit program. Thank you.

Craig Bonham – I think it was back in 1984 that I put a bid on a bison tag and was the high bidder. I think that was the very beginning of this program so I got the OIAL tag. When I gave the Division the check for the tag they gave me the keys to their cabin on the Henry Mountains. They said you can go hunting whenever you want so I grabbed my dad and my uncle and my oldest two sons and took my rifle and my bow and we went and stayed in the cabin. We got up the next morning and went over towards the horn on top of the Henrys and hunted all day. Late in the afternoon we saw our first buffalo. There were four bulls and we had to drive back to get on them. I grabbed my bow and shot one of the bulls and it turned out to be the state record for three or four years. It was a phenomenal experience for me and my family. The reason I wanted to share that with you is that you have no idea how much we appreciate that opportunity through this program. My sons still hunt with me and will for the rest of my life. This program doesn't just benefit wildlife it benefits families. It gives us the opportunity to go out and have a quality hunt and I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate that. Thanks.

Fred Oswald – I would like to add one more comment to the record from Tyler Boulter who is the president of United Wildlife Cooperative. He wanted to be here tonight but was unable because of a death in the family. I won't bother to read the entire thing but just the last paragraph which basically is his recommendation.
The UWC simply asks that we make the necessary adjustment to stay within the guidelines of five percent or less for all non-sheep conservation permits and ten percent for sheep permits. We also ask that triggers be in place that will allow us to adhere to allocation percentages in the case of future permit reductions. It is our experience that Utah sportsmen and women are growing leery of the conservation permit program and that taking the necessary precautions to stay within the current allocation rule will go a long way towards garnering future support for the program and the ultimate benefit to wildlife that these funds provide.

RAC Discussion
Karl Hirst – The idea to add a table to this rule I feel is excellent but I disagree in the way the table is designed in that it is designed to over issue tags and under issue tags. I would like to hand out a table for the non-sheep species and one for the sheep species. Basically what that table does is it takes out the interpretation of the rule, removing the fog from the rule. It doesn't matter whether you do it by unit, it doesn't matter whether you combine units, it doesn't matter whether you combine them all together as one. You cannot statistically, mathematically issue more tags than the five and ten percent with that chart. As this progresses I would like you to look at that. I think it's important that we stay within those guidelines. If you look at the 2011 tags and compare them to the 2009 tags which is the way they were determined about 50 percent were under and 50 percent were over which matches exactly with the way they were described they were allocated. I think we need to set a hard five and ten percent and then use this table to allocate those permits.

Fred Oswald – Kevin, have you seen this before? Would you comment?
Kevin Bunnell – This does exactly as Karl describes it. Let me give you a little more history on how we ended up where we are. If you go back to 1999 the rule had the same language in it that it does now but also had a table. At that time it was a maximum for all species. The table was very different and much more liberal than it is now. It said from two to 14 permits you get one

and from 15 to 30 you get two. It had the same language of the maximum of five percent but then had a table that was much more liberal that we are proposing now. So over time even though the language has stayed the same the implementation of the program has gotten more conservative. I think it was a logical assumption that in the past even though that language was there, knowing the fact that it has been getting more conservative was a good thing. That is how that got perpetuated and got us to this point. It started out with the same language but a much more liberal table that was being used to allocate the permits. That was back in the rule from I believe 1997 to 1999. This is why we have the public process. If through the public process it is determined that we want to go with a table like this that is what we will use and we will still try to get as much done with the conservation permit program as we can.

Richard Hansen – Do you know if they applied this to the program as it is now how much does it decrease the tags and what kind of a financial impact would that have?
Karl Hirst – In a sheep species it will have an impact. It could result in a tag in each species being taken down and those tags are very pricey. I don't think it would take two desert and two rocky but it would take at least one of each. In the other species it is very similar in how it is laid out. There are as many below as there are above and it would even that out. I don't think it would be significant. There could be a few but in sheep it would have an impact.

Sarah Flinders – The comments that I received from the public were in favor of the maximum of five and ten percent. I did not get one comment from public from about 14 that wanted to go with the table as proposed. One gentleman said he feels like changing the current rule would allow for extreme rounding. It can be bumped up to ten or even 20 which is extreme and that is exactly what we are talking about here.
Kevin Bunnell – But Sarah that is also with the understanding that this is a change from what has been happening but it is not. It is exactly the way it has been. It comes with the assumption that the way we have been doing it is fine and this is changing it to make it worse but its not. It is making it the same as it has been being implemented for the last several years.
Sarah Flinders – Right, the way it has been implemented but not the way the current rule state.
Kevin Bunnell – But there is an explicit implication there that it is the change that is bad and they are not understanding that there is no change involved.
Sarah Flinders – From the way we have been implementing it but the way it has been implemented is not the way the current rule state. We haven't been adhering to the five and the ten percent. That would be recommendation as well to stay with the five and ten percent maximums because that is what I heard from everyone I talked to.

VOTING
Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the recommended changes except that the maximum of five and ten percent are maintained and that a table is adopted to make it more visible that reflect those maximum percentages
Seconded by Matt Clark

Gary Nielson – How many more than ten percent are they issuing this year for sheep? I have watched the sheep program build in Utah as well from about nothing. I wonder if we ought to consider the sheep permits differently.
Karl Hirst – In 2011 we issued six for desert big horn and four for rocky mountain and that is from the information given by Greg. They were both issued at about 13 percent. I think this would take one from each of them.
Jay Price - On average how much do these sheep permits sell for?
Karl Hirst – I will refer to the audit. It said that each of these tags on average sold fro 7,880 dollars across the whole spectrum.

John Bair – I have sold more sheep tags than anyone in the state. I can assure you I have never sold one for 7,000 dollars. The desert sheep tags will average anywhere from 20,000 to 50,000 dollars and I haven't sold a rocky for under 40,000 for the last three or four years.
Jay Price – So on sheep we are talking around 70,000 we would lose.
John Bair – Between 70,000 and 100,000 dollars if I had to guess.

Sarah Flinders - Does all of that go back into the sheep program and sheep habitat?
John Fairchild – All but ten percent by rule and often time part of that ten percent.

Public – But that is why the sheep is already ten percent instead of five.

Greg Sheehan – I appreciate the time Karl has put into this. Certainly that table helps bring some clarity. I think not too many people are as worried once you start getting into the units that have a lot more permits. The challenge is what about these hunts that have four or five our eight permits. Who gets those, how do you work through that? I don't know maybe what the best way is by I am a little bit concerned with this table and what that may do to revenue. I wish I had brought some numbers with me. Maybe Karl has them from something I have sent him. I believe our revenue last year from all the sheep permits sold through the draws was around 50,000 dollars. And I believe the revenue that came back from the conservation permits was close to 300,000 dollars. The cost of running the sheep program is many, many times over funded by these conservation permits. All the helicopter flights, all the research studies are funded not by permits issued to the general public which is the majority of them. So if a strategy is developed as to how we allocate these permits on species with very low numbers I think it is incumbent to make sure we don't chop 100,000 dollars or more out of the revenue because there aren't that many of those permits sold but it is a lot of money. It really funds our whole sheep program. I don't want to see any more permits than you have to have out there to run this so the public gets the maximum opportunity but I'm not sure if that table is the best way when zero to 19 would be zero permits, did I read that right?
Karl Hirst – For the non sheep species.

Fred Oswald – Karl, I want to clarify your motion. It really didn't ask that your table be included but whatever is used keeps with the five and ten percent, is that correct.
Karl Hirst – I am okay with that. I can't think of a way to design it differently but if they can I am okay with that.
Jay Price – This would include all species?
Karl Hirst – It would be a maximum of five percent for all other species and a maximum of ten percent for sheep. I do have those numbers. They sold six desert big horn tags for 258,167 and four Rocky Mountain sheep tags for 191,000 dollars. I would venture that there is a supply and demand curve here. As the supply goes down the price will go up. It is not a direct correlation because if you have fewer the price will go up.

Sarah Flinders – With a decrease in tags will there be a decrease in projects?
Kevin Bunnell – Specifically with sheep, for example if you take the southeastern region 30 years ago there were two desert sheep units. There are now six units that are being hunted. I think there are actually nine. It is a significant increase. If we didn't have a conservation permit program for sheep we would still be hunting two units. It is because of that there is a lot more public opportunity out there as a result of this program. I don't disagree with everything that is being said here but with sheep in particular with the susceptibility to disease, sheep are a high maintenance species and it takes dollars to maintain. We have an agreement we just got with Nevada to bring 30 sheep in a year over the next three years. That will be funded with conservation permit dollars if we have the funds to do it. We are continuing to build sheep where we can. We are limited a little bit by the presence of domestic sheep. We don't put wild sheep

where we have domestic sheep so that limits where we can put them to a certain extent and we are getting down to where we don't have a whole bunch of places left. But as opportunities come open we continue to expand where we have sheep populations.
Sarah Flinders – So if people want the max to be 10 percent of permits could that harm the sheep population?
Kevin Bunnell – It's probably not going to harm the current population but it could hamper our ability to grow the sheep program even further. That is what it is. If through this process it is determined that we should go by a table that is different than the one we have proposed then that is what we will do.

Richard Hansen – That is my biggest concern is the sheep program. If that is under funded there will be less public permits too. With this table and the five percent perhaps it is the sheep program that will not benefit from that more than anything. A couple tags that could be conservation tags probably pays more dividends than it takes out of the program.

Duane Smith – I concur with that. I am concerned if we have a problem with sheep or moose and they are on the decline that conservation money is really what allows us to try and find out the answers as to why those decreases are occurring. It allows us to increase the herd. All of us have seen this sheep program grow from two units to where they are. It has been remarkable. I have watched the studies that graduate students have been able to do with this funding. I think they have done a marvelous job. I am not sure we need to tie there hands with a hard fast rule versus the averaging they are doing right now. I would like them to put some work in the moose to decide what the decline.

Fred Oswald – This is a classic example of an issue that RAC members have to deal with and there is not an easy answer to it. I think the comments we have heard from everybody have been right. There have been comments about how important the five and ten percent rule is. On the other hand there have been comments on how important those conservation tags monies are. It is not easy and I am glad I'm not voting on this one.

In Favor: Karl Hirst, Matt Clark
Opposed: Gary Nielson, Richard Hansen, Duane Smith, Matt Clark, Sarah Flinders, George Holmes, Jay Price
Motion failed 7 to 2

Motion was made by Jay Price to accept the Division's recommendations for rocky mountain big horn sheep and desert big horn sheep and use the hard five percent limit for all other conservation species as well as the balance of the recommendations
Seconded by Sarah Flinders

Fred Oswald – Is that something you can live with?
Kevin Bunnell – We'll live with what comes out but it will to a lesser extent effect revenue. Goats and moose are other species that don't pull their own weight in terms of permits. Again we will take the money that the program generates and use it in the most efficient way we can whatever that ends up being.

In Favor: Karl Hirst, Gary Nielson, Richard Hansen, Sarah Flinders, Matt Clark, George Holmes, Jay Price
Opposed: Duane Smith, Michael Gates
Motion passed 7 to 2

Karl Hirst – I have an additional motion regarding this item. I have talked with Kevin and Greg and they felt this would be appropriate to add into the rule. After spending about 40 hours researching this, you have to go to many locations, make a lot of phone calls to a lot of agencies to try to decipher how this is being used. I volunteered to Greg to help them if they wanted but my recommendation is that it is added to the rule that an annual report be published in reference to the conservation program, that it lists from start to finish on how they are allocated, the percentages that are allocated, where the money goes and what projects are accomplished with that money so that our sportsmen don't have to go to five, six or seven location to get this information. It would be one report that would have everything it took me 40 hours to gather.

Motion was made by Karl Hirst that it is put in rule that an annual report be published in reference to the conservation program that it lists from start to finish how the permits are allocated, the percentages that are allocated, where the money goes and what projects are accomplished with that money
Seconded by Jay Price
In Favor: all
Motion passed unanimously

5) <u>Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03</u> (Action)
- **Krissy Wilson, Aquatic Program Coordinator**

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
Matt Clark – So if there is an urban goose problem on golf course can golf course managers go out and destroy Canada goose eggs?
Krissy Wilson – If they go online and register they can destroy the nest.
Kevin Bunnell – That is correct, they would register online and then report after so we can keep track of the magnitude.
Matt Clark – You don't think that will cause a problem with the urban population?
Kevin Bunnell – We are trying to eliminate the urban geese population as it is, this will help us. We spend tens of thousands of dollars a year trying to relocate urban geese. It has been successful on goslings but not on the adults. This would limit the growth of those populations which is one of the things we are trying to accomplish.

VOTING
Motion was made by Richard Hansen to accept the rule as presented
Seconded by Duane Smith
In Favor: all
Motion passed unanimously

6) <u>Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57</u> (Action)
- **Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief**

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
Karl Hirst – Could you explain again on OIAL species what could happen? That is the only area I have any concern with the one it's in that it maybe should be in the season extension category.
Greg Sheehan – That is one we thought that could be over in the other category as well. There are not lots and lots of lifetime permits out there so it is probably not going to be very many season extensions. If for some reason you had a bunch of people on a hunt that had very few permits in the first place and you pushed them to next year there could be a resource issue but we haven't seen that in the past. Over the years we have had three, one, four, six, ten, and seven per year. If you spread that out between moose, goats, bison and all the OIAL species it is probably not a big resource issue.

Fred Oswald – Who makes up the variance committee?
Greg Sheehan – Our licensing coordinator Judi Tutorow, rules coordinator Staci Coons, Kevin Bunnell and myself.
Fred Oswald – I know the board often had difficulty determining if an individual had hunted or not hunted. There are some who said they were riding around by they weren't walking around and yes I had my weapon with me.
Greg Sheehan – None of this is easy. There are so many situations. This year there were 156 of them. So there are 156 life stories that we had to hear and they can be a bit challenging.
John Bair – This takes up more time than I think any of us would like to put to it at the board. Please take this very seriously. This is the most uncomfortable, unpleasant thing that as a board member I have ever had to deal with. You are talking about people who have spent years and years putting in and just tragic situations that have happened to them. This is an extremely important issue. I would beg of you to give it some very serious thought.

RAC Discussion
Duane Smith – How do people become aware of the variance rule? Will you put it in the proclamation?
Greg Sheehan – It has been in the proclamation before. A lot of times people will call our offices when they have these life events and ask what they can do. If they approach us at all we give them all the options that are out there.
Duane Smith – One time we tried to find it because of a heart attack and we couldn't find it. I think it needs to be spelled out in the proclamation.
Greg Sheehan – I'm not sure how long ago that was but as you look at this graph you can see that we have gotten a lot better at marketing it if you will. Amanda, what would be a typical way you would become aware of one of these?
Amanda Bagley – Many people call our office or bring their permits to the office and we would give them the paperwork and explain their options to them.
Greg Sheehan – We have tried to make it easy and again I think that is why it has taken off.
Duane Smith – We just called someone we knew and that happened to be Jim Karpowitz. I think it does need to be visible. I would like to see the season extension put back in for OIAL. Those are extremely hard to draw and even if you got your points back it would be difficult if you went back into the draw. There are so few of them it don't think it would hurt the resource.
Greg Sheehan – We did struggle with that issue as well as how many days you have hunted.
Duane Smith – I think the OIAL guy should have the season extension. With four of you on the committee is it consensus or majority vote because otherwise you need five?
Greg Sheehan – We beat each other down until we have an answer, consensus.
Kevin Bunnell – We do occasionally come to a stale mate and if that is the case a member of the directors office breaks the tie.

VOTING
Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the recommendations as presented with the exception that OIAL species would be eligible for a season extension
Seconded by Richard Hansen
In Favor: all
Motion passed unanimously

7) Deer Management Plans (Action)
- **Craig Clyde, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the RAC
Sarah Flinders – Can you clarify the scale?

Craig Clyde - As we look at the different components within that habitat we put a score to that based on whether it is bitter brush or all grass or what deer would actually use. Once we put a score to that we can divide that up. A higher score would be 60 or 70 and it would go down from there in ten point increments. That would give us an idea of what is going on out there. When we look at the range trend data itself it can be over whelming. It makes it easier and quicker for everyone to understand if that scale is in there.
Sarah Flinders - Is there a category above fair how many are there?
Craig Clyde – I think we have five different categories; fair, good, very good and excellent.
Sarah Flinders – Do you think that you came up with fair based on the drying trend?
Craig Clyde – This data is five years old that is why we are going to change the plan next year. We are trying to change that so we have more up to date information on a yearly basis. We are going to have the biologists do a smaller scale range trend study. We won't be waiting five years and when we see something happening to the habitat out there and we feel we need to reduce numbers.
Sarah Flinders – So at the end of the drought five years ago you gave it a fair so fair is pretty decent.
Craig Clyde – Yes.

Fred Oswald – In an ideal setting would you have a range crew come through every year?
Craig Clyde – In an ideal world, yeah but you would you need four more crews and it is expensive. There are approximately 100 trends to run and it takes them a whole field season to do some them.
Fred Oswald – Would the man power be available if the money was available.
Craig Clyde – It all comes back to money. If money was there, yes we could.
John Fairchild – It really is a trend so it begs the question how often do you need to go out to see a trend.
Craig Clyde – Again these are plants that grow very slow. In some ways it can be good because you are counting forbs that might grow a lot faster but if you have a good year and you know your deer population is going to do well you don't cut anything. That is why we use three year data now to try to go by those trends. Five years isn't that bad but we want to have our thumb on the pulse and that is why the biologists will be picking up some of them. What they do is drop in the bucket. We'll have 12 to 15 that we do in the spring compared to 100 the range crew will be doing.

Richard Hansen - When you set objectives is that based just on habitat? I went online and I tried to look at different places and there are places where there is an objective that we are not even close to.
Craig Clyde – The objective wasn't set by the habitat because it changes so much and it is really hard to measure. When we first had to come up with a plan we looked at the harvest on the unit. We had that information, from that you ask how many does will it take to produce that harvest. Then you look at what total population you would have to have to produce that and we take an average over a five year period and that is where the objective was set. Some of them have gone down from that depending on habitat problems. Habitat is not the diving force. There is a lot to do when you start talking about carrying capacity – it is not just habitat. There are so many factors. It is how many elk will people put up with, it becomes political or what the speed limit is on the highway or if you have fences there or not.
Richard Hansen – So you could put any number there. It's not a goal.
Craig Clyde – In reality it is a goal. When we put it in there that is what we are trying to reach. We are doing lots of things from working with UDOT on the highways to doing habitat projects to try to make things better out there. If you build it they will come. Those numbers will increase if they have the habitat there and lack of other things like cars.

RAC Discussion
Fred Oswald – We are making a motion to accept the central region deer management plan as presented.
Craig Clyde – It would be for all the deer plans in the state.

VOTING
Motion was made by Matt Clark to accept the deer management plans as presented
Seconded by Jay Price
In Favor: all
Motion passed unanimously

8) Elk Management Plans (Action)
- **Craig Clyde, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the RAC
George Holmes – I noticed here that the statewide increase in elk population objective is 2,140. Places that I could ride to on my horse, it might take me more than a day, have more than half of that. Specifically chalk creek which is 500, Kamas is 200, avintaquin is 350.
Craig Clyde – Some places we feel like we have too many elk. Like in the central region we didn't feel like we had any place that we could put elk. Maybe Spanish Fork canyon but if we increase there we need to reduce them in Heber valley and it ends up being a wash. We can make that adjustment within the unit itself without increasing total numbers. Other areas like chalk creek they felt like they could have more elk without causing depredation problems.
George Holmes – Who is the we?
Craig Clyde – The biologists originally comes up with that recommendation and then what they did in all of those areas that had increases they put committees together to look at that and on those committees they would put agriculture people, sportsmen and others similar to what we would do with a statewide elk plan. The southern region had probably the biggest controversy there but they voted for that increase and it did go through the RAC and it did pass. Northeast wanted an increase on their side of the Wasatch, avintaquin, the committee met and accepted it and the RAC accepted it.
George Holmes – So that area is in a different RAC area than this?
Craig Clyde – Yes. Avintaquin is adjacent to Wasatch. Having radio collars on elk along Strawberry ridge most of the elk that we had collars on that were on the east side of strawberry ridge, as soon as the first bullet is fired they move to the avintaquin. The ones that are on the avintaquin move that way too. They go as far as desolation canyon. None of the elk we had collars on crossed highway 40. One elk did come from 17b and winter in Wallsburg.
George Holmes – What is the area north of 17b?
Craig Clyde – Kamas.
George Holms – Have we collard any of those elk?
Craig Clyde - Not that I am aware of. Some of those could go to wolf creek and eventually into Heber valley.

Jay price – Was that vote in the northeastern region unanimous?
Craig Clyde – I don't know.

Michael Gates – Is there a similar type of analysis with range trend data for elk habitat?
Craig Clyde – We do put in the DCI for information but it was really built for deer. There is some overlap but they would be eating different things. We would need to have a DCI just for elk to make it valuable.

Questions from the Public

Troy Justensen – I sat on several of these committees for the elk plan specifically dealing with the southern region. Director Karpowitz pointed out that nearly 16 million dollars of conservation permit money has been invested in that area and nearly 220,000 acres treated. It is the Division's understanding that there is enough forage there to support this increase. Even some of the BLM and Forest Service biologists agreed with it. It got a little clouded later and some have disagreed with the increase. To this point it has passed in all the RACs. As far as Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife we would like to support the Division's recommendations and ask that the RAC support the recommendations also. Thank you.

Ben Lowder – UBA – I had the opportunity to sit on the elk committee representing UBA when the five year plan was being drafted. By the time we drafted plan there was a lot of discussion that theses committees would be formed in order to address potentially increasing population objectives on various units. It is good to see the Division follow through with that. From sitting on that committee I learned that there has been a lot of money dumped into projects across the state that has increased the forage for elk and we do have the room to grow some of these populations. Therefore UBA supports the Division's recommendations and we would encourage the RAC to support that as well. Thank you.

RAC Discussion

Michael Gates – You mentioned that there was some discussion on the west desert boundary and that those numbers may just be reflecting a boundary change. Is that correct?
Craig Clyde – Yes, that is correct. The dog valley, sage valley area was included into the west desert unit which they had 150 elk there already so that would increase the west desert population so it is an increase but it is not.
Michael Gates – Would that be the same on Fillmore?
Craig Clyde – No, Fillmore was an increase.

George Holmes – Are there areas that are over objective especially in 17a, b and c?
Craig Clyde – 17a is over objective by 900 elk right now. We are in the process of trying to get that number down. Our recommendations that you already voted on was to increase cow tags to bring that to objective.
George Holmes – How about statewide total elk?
Craig Clyde – Very few are under so they are usually at objective or higher.
George Holmes – So by increasing these numbers does that make the objective more reflective of the numbers then?
Kevin Bunnell - It puts it in the middle. The current objective before any of these changes is 68,000. Our current population estimate is about 73,000. These changes would put the population estimate at 70,000 so we are still over by about 3,000. There is still some work to do on several units.
George Holmes – There are estimates because when count the elk you estimate what percent you count. So if you are five percent off there could be a lot more or a lot less.
Craig Clyde – There could be. We figure plus or minus 20 percent. When we fly we count everything we can find. We don't double count. On top of that we will add 20 percent that we figure we haven't seen. That could vary on a year.
George Holmes – I thought one year you said you thought you saw 85 percent.
Craig Clyde – The 20 percent is based on studies out of Idaho. We don't really know for every one of our units what that really is. They all have different sight ability. Overall we use 20 percent but there are times when in your area on the Wasatch where Dale has flown that and would say 85 percent sight ability because we had great conditions, really good light, no cloud cover, really good snow. We can find tracks and follow that to a mahogany patch which on a normal year you would miss those. It is a little subjective as to how the biologist feels about his own flight.

Jay Price – Have the public lands increase their AUMs?
Michael Gates – Yes, the BLM has.
Sarah Flinders – Not that I know of.
Michael Gates – Ours are mostly increases mainly due forage that is created due to fires.

Gary Nielson – I sat on elk the study group. We talked about looking for opportunity to increase elk numbers if the landowners and the people who would be impacted by that would allow it and we came to a consensus that that was the case. I am glad to see this finally happening.

VOTING
Motion was made by Gary Nielson to accept the recommendations as presented
Seconded by Richard Hansen

In Favor: Karl Hirst, Gary Nielson, Richard Hansen, Duane Smith, Michael Gates, Sarah Flinders, Matt Clark, Jay Price
Opposed: George Holmes (opposed to the increase in general, specifically chalk creek, Kamas and avintaquin)

Motion passed 8 to 1

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.
27 in attendance (RAC, DWR and public)
Next board meeting June 6th at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake City
Next RAC meeting August 7th at Springville Public Library

Northern Regional Advisory Council

May 16, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center

RAC Present	DWR Present	Wildlife Board
John Blazzard- Agric	Jodie Anderson	Ernie Perkins
Robert Byrnes At Large	Phil Douglass	
John Cavitt Noncon.	Randy Wood	
Joel Ferry- Agric	Justin Dolling	
James Gaskill- At Large	Scott Davis	
Russ Lawrence- At Large	Darren Debloois	
Ann Neville- Noncon.	Greg Sheehan	
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM	Jim Parrish	
Bryce Thurgood- At Large	Dan Christensen	
Craig Van Tasell- Sportsman	Alan Clark	
John Wall- At Large	Dave Rich	
	Krissy Wilson	
	Marty Bushman	
	Pam Kramer	

RAC Excused

Paul Cowley- Forest Service
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large
Jon Leonard- Sportsman
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected

RAC Absent

Meeting Begins: 6:08 p.m.
Number of Pages: 23

Introduction: Robert Byrnes-Chair

Agenda:
Review of Agenda and April 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Conservation Permit Rule Amendment R657-41
Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03
Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57
Deer Management Plans
Elk Management Plans
Hardware Ranch Management Plan
Hunting Closure Proposal

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of RAC Members

Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda and April 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Motion-Blazzard- So moved.
Second-Van Tassell
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Motion- Neville- Approve April 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes.
Second- Lawrence
Motion Passes: For: 8 **Abstain:** 2. Blazzard and Sillitoe were not present at last RAC. meeting.

Item 3.Wildlife Board Update

Emailed to RAC members

Item 4. Regional Update
-Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

May 31st Big Game draw results will be posted on website. Antlerless Applications will start on June 1 through the 21st.
Law Enforcement- Several boats infested with Quagga mussel that have been detained and decontaminated. Improved patrol efforts.
Mini range assessments starting this year.
2012 Federal Duck Stamp Contest will be held at Weber State on September 28th and 29th.
Law Enforcement conducted an antler auction/fur auction which was extremely successful.
Willard fishing really well. East Canyon, Rockport and Hyrum are also good.

Byrnes- When did Darren send out that email?
Dolling- I believe the middle of last week. Did everyone receive that?
Byrnes- I need to pay better attention. If I did not receive it, I will contact you.

Item 5. Conservation Permit Rule Amendment R657-41
- Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief

See Handout

Public Questions

Mike Christensen- Have received some emails from me. Currently in the rule, it says "a maximum of 5% or maximum of 10%. Why are you striking those words?
Greg Sheehan- Because this table will lay out the permit numbers. What we probably should have done on this rule and we may go back now after all this discussion and change it, is get rid of that 5% and 10%. Basically, just say here is the table for the permit numbers. If we want to have a dialogue about how many permits ought to be out there. Let's just look at the table and if it seems high or low, that is something we can always adjust over time. We have two things that are conflicting in this rule. How do you say 5% of a range, it does not work. That has been some confusion in years past.
Mike Christensen- In past RAC's the division's proposal is stated that this is no increase in conservation permits and then in the central RAC and southeastern RAC, they stated that they have been over issuing permits under this rule. Can you address that?
Greg Sheehan- It is right back to that 5% again. It works great if you have got 50 permits on a pavont elk unit. It is really hard when you are back down to 6 permits on a sheep unit. What is happening in some cases is that they have this language in there that said it can be no more than 10% and if you have 6 permits, it is .6. They were going ahead and rounding to create a permit. We need to just kind of forget that 5% and 10% thing and use these tables.
Mike Christensen- Where in the rule does it say that they could have used rounding to over issue tags?
Greg Sheehan- It doesn't.
Mike Christensen- So the division was incorrect in using rounding to go over the maximum of 5%?
Greg Sheehan- I don't think it was widespread permits flying all over the place. In some cases, where it rounded to get a permit it happened.
Mike Christensen- It was 20-30 permits is all.
Greg Sheehan- Maybe once in a lifetime species. We don't even really have that many out there.
Mike Christensen- Just overall.
Greg Sheehan- We need to fix this. You are exactly right.
Mike Christensen- You keep saying the change of this rule is for clarity issues but when you have the table, if you went back to that, it shows one of eleven is 9 plus percent. So, if a unit has 11 permits, it will qualify one under this change right?
Greg Sheehan- Yes.

Mike Christensen- And if a sheep unit has five permits, it will qualify under this change for one tag correct?
Greg Sheehan- Let me read what the table is. 5-14 would qualify as one on sheep. So, it is more than 10% on that.
Mike Christensen- It is 20.
Greg Sheehan- But if a unit has 14 tags and you only give one, then it is only 7% or something. It kind of just depends on that year on how many permits are in a unit. If you are somewhere between the 5 and 14, it qualifies for one. If there were 10 permits on that unit, which is a possibility, there would be one permit and it would be 10%.
Mike Christensen- So, this proposed change cannot increase possible permits that don't reach the 20 on the other species. If a unit has 18 tags under the current rule, that is zero conservation permits.
Greg Sheehan- Are you talking sheep?
Mike Christensen- No, on other species. I just want to understand that if a unit has 11 permits under the current rule, how many permits would it qualify for?
Greg Sheehan- I think it would still be one. I am going to let Alan do that.
Alan Clark- This rule has changed almost every year since 1998. The old rule said 5% just like now. It also had a table. The table said that if there was 2-14 permits then there is 1 conservation permit. How do you merge those? Over the course of time, we have been trying to adjust this to make it less contradictory. The last change we made which is the maximum of 5%, prior to 1996, it said a maximum of 5% except the wildlife board could issue a higher number. We still had maximum of 5% but the wildlife board was allowed to exceed that. When we tightened it up in 1996, we eliminated that board discretion in that section of the rule but we never had interpreted the maximum 5% the same way you are interpreting that. The language might have been wrong because I have calculated the permits every year since 1999 and I will tell you it is exactly the same way now as it was then. We tried to put language in that maxed how we were calculating it. Obviously, we made a mistake. You can say we violated the rule if you want to say it that way. The other thing you can say is that we did not write the rule very clearly. There is still a section in the rule that says the number of conservation permits available for use during the following year determined by the wildlife board annually. It already gives the wildlife board authority to do something else. We are trying to tighten it down. It was my idea to put this table in here. I actually have the table from 2009 if anyone wants to see it. This would give a couple less permits than the table I used in 2009. It can be portrayed as violating our rule.
Mike Christensen- I am not trying to attack anyone or claim anyone did anything willingly. I think it was just an oversight.
Alan Clark- I agree. I think putting the word maximum in where we put it and taking out the other language was an oversight and we shouldn't have done it. The number of permits issued are exactly the same until you get back to 1999, then there were a whole lot more issued. We have made a couple of changes to give a lot less. We have reduced the number of permits by 70 or so since the peak year in 2005.
Mike Christensen- Do you feel that how this public process is going that the rule you are presenting is clear enough?
Alan Clark- I think what Greg suggested the thing we talked about, we probably need to take the 5% out and not have it in there. We have a similar problem with non-resident tags. I want

to make it clear how we got to where we got. What number you want to use, that is a policy issue.
Troy Justensen - Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- You were down at the RAC meeting last night. Carl Hurst passed out a similar table based upon permit numbers and what they would equal. How does that compare to what we are looking at right here?
Greg Sheehan- I wish I would have put it side by side. I think it was very similar. I bet Mike knows. I don't think it is way off. Where it got a little bit tricky is in the sheep permits and the 10%. I think they ended up accepting the table that was handed out.
Troy Justensen- Excluding the sheep, does this pertain to the other OIAL deer and elk in that table fairly close?
Mike Christensen- The table follows the maximum of 5% which means for every 20 permits they can issue one conservation tag for all other species. Not talking about sheep. The range is 20 to 39 because that meets the current rule which states a maximum of 5%. So it cannot be 5.1%. It would be 20-39, 40-59, 60-79, 80-99 and so on until it reaches 160. Then 160 over, that is just 8 permits. That is when it reaches the maximum.
Troy Justensen- Carl was also saying that it sometimes error and it gave way not enough? Is that true? If the percentage is dropped below the 5% or the 10%?
Mike Christensen- The current rule reads a maximum of 5%. That means that it cannot go over 5% but it can go under. So, you go over 5% if you issue a permit before it reaches that number divided by 20. Let's say you have 59 permits, you can only issue 2 conservation permits under the maximum of 5% rule. But you are probably bumping right down to probably 4% or so of that. The current rule cannot go above 5%.
Troy Justensen- Who decides the number of permits and what permits are going to be available in the conservation permit program?
Alan Clark- We used that table I told you I had in the back room. We just apply that to the number of permits being issued in that year. We use the base year and that is what we determine. The wildlife board has to approve them. We make a recommendation and the wildlife board approves them. Again, if we want to start arguing if it is in compliance with the rule or not, I argue that language that says the wildlife board can do what they want to do which makes it not a violation of the rule. It is different than the 5%, I absolutely agree with Mike. This year, my great hope is that for the first time in 12 years, I won't have anything to do with the conservation permit program.
Troy Justensen- Once you designate the permits that are eligible and it gets passed by the wildlife board, the conservation groups have the ability to bid and secure the permits they have right?
Alan Clark- Yes, it is a very detailed process that we came up with in 2006. All of the groups will say it works way better than anything we have had in the past. It also has both 3 year permits and one year permits. The one year permits provide some opportunity for new groups who come in.
Troy Justensen- Until the wildlife board approves, those conservation groups don't come in and tell you that they want these permits set aside?
Alan Clark- No.
Troy Justensen- Thank you.

RAC Questions

John Blazzard- According to this paperwork, it says that for every conservation permit issued, there is also a sportsman permit put into a draw.
Robert Byrnes- It is actually statewide. It is a sportsman permit for every statewide conservation permit.
John Blazzard- If there are 8 sheep permits issued, there is also 8 sportsmen.
Robert Byrnes- No.
Alan Clark- There is only one per species unless we had a special deal and that has only been used once and that is when we hosted a national convention of one group. I cannot even remember who it was. We issued an extra statewide bison permit. I think it was bison. If you look at the statewide permits, there is one statewide permit for bighorn sheep and one sportsman permit anyone can apply for that has exactly the same season.
Robert Byrnes- I think John's confusion is statewide in the area.
Alan Cark- Ok.
Robert Byrnes- So, there is one sportsman permit for the statewide and then there are also area conservation permits.
Alan Clark- Area conservation permits are limited to be less.
Robert Byrnes- To a certain boundary.
Alan Clark- Yes.
John Blazzard- It is still a one per one for conservation vs. sportsman.
Alan Clark- For statewide. All the rest of them go to the public for area ones.
Joel Ferry- If this rule has been changed every year, is this going to fix that? Why has this been such a difficult process?
Alan Clark- I think it has been pretty stable since 2006. The last time it was changed, was when we added the Antelope Island hunts.
Joel Ferry- This is to clarify and provide some certainty.
Alan Clark- Yes.
Joel Ferry- I hate to reinvent the wheel every year.
Bryce Thurgood- Would it be a lot easier if we struck maximum 5% clear over. Is that what everyone else is saying? Just go strictly to the model only.
Alan Clark- I think that would be a good way for this RAC to do it. The RAC last night adopted a table but did not strike the language. I think this RAC, if they want to, I believe the division would probably recommend that we strike that. That table reflects history and if you pass a table, I think that is the best way to do it so there is never a question of how many permits will be available.
Bryce Thurgood- If we just had a table and threw out the number, it would simplify it.
James Gaskill- If we just deleted that whole sentence including the 8 permit part, is that going to hurt anything? 8 is already the maximum.
Alan Clark- You would probably just need to say for the remaining conservation permits, this is the table. You probably need a little bit of that sentence to lead in so you know what you are talking about.
Robert Byrnes- I can give you my take on it when we get to comments.

Public Comment

Mike Christensen- In no way am I here to hurt the conservation permit program. This is just about the change you are going to make over what the current rule is. No matter how it has

been allocated in the past, the current rule is being changed. I ask you to vote for a table for all species except sheep, that includes 20-39, that gives a true maximum of 5% in the conservation tag permits to those species. The sheep, I am going to defer to those behind me because the sheep maybe a little bit different. One of the biggest divisive issues in the hunting right now, besides all the deer stuff we have gone through, is the conservation permit program. We are selling our tags to the rich. The rich don't have to wait in line. When they put that maximum of 5% wording in, it was a struggle. There was so much divisive tension seeing the public resource sold off. That would alleviate that if we included the table and go with the 5% maximum. You are only going to lose about 20-25 tags. We have got 30 micro deer units now which qualify under this program at 8 permits a pop. That could be an extra 240 tags. I don't know if this RAC wants to take this up because no other RAC has. It has not been mentioned yet but maybe there should be a cap on those general deer tags and use those on a regional basis. Like they have done with the turkey permits.

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- SFW has no interest whatsoever in changing the rule or the mechanism to increase conservation permits. Our hope is that through the table that has been put here and the table that was submitted in the central region, that the division can come back and come up with a formula that holds it at that 5%. We do ask that the sheep be looked at different as we talked about in the meeting last night. The conservation permit money is the lifeblood to Utah's sheep program. We have been recognized nationally as having one of the best sheep programs in the U.S. We would ask that somehow someway we go in and whatever we adjust the percentage or the table, that at least we can maintain the number of sheep tags we have at this point. If we can keep this pool and keep growing our sheep herd, it benefits all.

Ryan Foutz- Utah FNAWS- Sheep are an expensive species to manage. Should there be some unfair advantage to having more conservation permits than maybe the other. My argument would be yes. For example, in the current sheep management plan I got from Anis a few years ago, in there it stated that back in 1989 we currently had an estimated population in the state of Utah between 700-800 wild sheep. I am not sure if any of you know, but do you know currently what our population of big horn sheep is in the state of Utah? It is over 5,000. That is absolutely a direct reflection of the money that is raised through the conservation permit program. There is a ton of misinformation and when you talk to people and tell them where this money goes, what it is for and what it is benefiting, it kind of makes sense. I have asked the division to produce a table for us and put it on their home page that would show the same graph of the dollars spent since its inception that would follow the dollars being spent with also the opportunity to the public. Last year, there was about 320 conservation permits. This year, there is going to be 5,400 limited entry and OIAL permits issued. The reason we do this is to create more opportunity. I would encourage you to adopt something. We are not about getting more permits, we are about maintaining the integrity of this program. We want the public to understand it.

Robert Byrnes- Your recommendation is to maintain the current permit numbers?

Ryan Foutz- Yes, let me clarify. My recommendation is to maintain the conservation permit program, the recommended rule changes but let's go with something that is clear and does not conflict with each other. Right now, it looks like 5% and the table are conflicting. On sheep it is obviously 10%. I am asking for some wiggle room. If we have to go by that, we are not going to have any tags to sell.

Bryce Thurgood- Will the table for the sheep jive with the sheep tags?

Ryan Foutz- I didn't know about taking that off the percentage and using the table. I don't know what that will do. Maybe Alan could clue me in as to what that would actually mean for sheep tags.
Bryce Thurgood- Alan, could you tell us that number please?
Alan Clark- The table is intended to exactly duplicate what we have been doing.
Ryan Foutz- Then I am totally comfortable with that.
Robert Byrnes- Email from United Wildlife Cooperative- Recognized the good that comes from the funds generated by the conservation permit program. Last fall, it came to our attention that UDWR and organizations that received conservation permits were in violation of the rule that governs these permits. Several species were beyond the percentage defined by the governing rules. It seems we are rewriting the rule to fit the infraction and ultimately proposing to increase the relative number of permits. The UWC simply asks that we make the necessary adjustments to stay within the guidelines of 5% or less on all non-sheep conservation permits and 10% for sheep permits. We also ask that triggers be in place that will allow us to adhere to allocation percentages in the case of future permit reductions.

RAC Deliberation

Robert Byrnes- If you are going to strike the percentages, that you would put a reference to the table or that limit of permits. It could be a little clearer.
Craig Van Tassell- I would like the division to comment on the 30 unit deer on conservation tags that would come out of the 30 units.
Alan Clark- The division had no interest in issuing any general season deer tags and actually we were suppose to take that out. If this RAC wants to include that in their motion, that is fine. I thought it was out but I went through and read it. We met with all the groups and when we talked about proposed changes, we said that we were not going to issue any general season deer tags because of that. I thought that was in there. If you want to add a clarifying statement, that is fine. We will fit it in the rule where it belongs.
John Blazzard- It just seems to me like if we get rid of the percentage, if we can come up with a table which has the perimeters that was presented to us that shows within a certain number it matches the 5% or does not exceed it so that the table shows the number and the number of permits available there, that is probably the best way to go. If that hits the perimeters of the percentages, that is by far the more simple way to go in my opinion.
Robert Byrnes- So the table that you would be recommending would be more of a rounding down table than a rounding up table?
John Blazzard- Yes, like Mike presented to us. That way, we could eliminate all of the percentages and rounding. It would be cut and dry.
Robert Byrnes- Would that table be only for the remainder species or for sheep?
John Blazzard- I think sheep need to be separate. I am in favor of the public getting all the permits they can.
Joel Ferry- If we did that, we talked about reducing tags by 20-25. What is the financial cost of that? That is a consideration in making that kind of decision. What would that cost the division to lose that many tags?
Robert Byrnes- I think that is more the total loss. Not just what the division gets out of it.
Greg Sheehan- It is hard to tell because we don't know what species. Let me give you a financial perspective. If you lost 25 tags out of say 300, you would lose roughly 10% or

something. To give you an idea, last year all of the limited entry permits we sold through our draws to residents and non-residents for all of these species added up to $1.6 million dollars for everything we sold. These 320 permits was $2.4 million dollars that came to us. Using that simple math, if we are going to lose roughly say 10% of the permits, about $240,000 dollars.
Joel Ferry- That is just a rough estimate.
Greg Sheehan- Probably a quarter of a million dollars. It might be a little bit less than that without sheep. I honestly don't know. That is just a ballpark of what kind of numbers we are talking about.
Joel Ferry- I just wanted to understand the financial impact it is going to have.
Greg Sheehan- Honestly, it varies year by year.
Robert Byrnes- Your funds are all basically habitat funds.
Greg Sheehan- We do some transplants and research but mostly habitat.
Bruce Sillitoe- In follow up to the question that was just asked, if you are going to lose a significant amount of money no matter what that number is, what resources would that money be used on if you have it and what resources would not benefit if you don't have it?
Greg Sheehan- We generally try and keep the dollars with the species. If that resulted in cuts in elk permits which is probably the largest one of these categories we have, we would cut back on elk related projects. We do more habitat with elk. Lately, we are doing a lot more research with deer. We would probably cut back on some deer research. It is hard to say for sure. The question is are these permits that much of a hindrance that we want to shrink the pot of money we are receiving. Speaking for the division, we feel we need all those dollars. There are a lot of critical issues we are dealing with wildlife. We hate to see money going away.
Bruce Sillitoe- If you are spending less on those projects, habitat and research, there may be long term impacts to the species and thus long term impacts to the public ability to draw tags?
Greg Sheehan- Possibly. When I mentioned the $1.6 million dollars we get from all the limited entry that goes out to the regular public, that is 7,200 permits. That is helping pay salaries and keep us going. The $2.4 million dollars gives money to the folks to go out and do stuff. That is the money that gives us a core to help wildlife. We hate to see that go away.
Robert Byrnes- We have recommendations from the public to limit to the maximum of 5% for the remainder species. We have a recommendation from the public to maintain the current conservation sheep permit numbers. We also have a recommendation from Alan Clark to include in our motion exemption general season deer conservation permits or not having them part of the rule.

Motion

Motion- Ferry- Exclude general deer permits from the Conservation Permit Program.
Second- Thurgood
Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion- Thurgood- Remove the sentences that has percent and number restrictions. Insert table for sheep and remaining species.
Second- Wall

Discussion on the motion

Gaskill- You want to leave the 8th permit number in that?
Thurgood- No, because it automatically states that in the table if you look on the bottom of the table.
Gaskill- I just wanted to clarify your motion. Your motion was to remove the 5%.
Thurgood- The whole sentence because if you look down in the table, it says the 8 permits.
Ferry- Are we removing both in the sheep, are we moving that full sentence, section 3a?
Thurgood- Yes, remove it and go off the current table.
Ferry- So, as follows and go through the current table?
Thurgood- Yes.
Ferry- I like it.
Greg Sheehan- We have our attorney general's office present here so if you can get the theme here of what you want done, he will get all the right words.

Motion Passes- For: 9 Against: 1

Byrnes- The last wildlife board meeting, some of the board members did request that the chairman ask their council members to state their reasons for opposition so that they could understand. If you are willing to do that.
Blazzard- If we tweak the number of permits so that those numbers came out so that there was never a round up, that is the reason why I did that. To move those numbers where the round up would never increase the permit. I think he said it would decrease it 20 out of 300.
Byrnes- You are in favor of rounding down?
Blazzard- Rounding down rather than rounding up.
Gaskill- Since we have a table, if the numbers change, they will come back to us and that is ok. That is why we are here.
Byrnes- The wildlife board sets the permits so if the rule changes, we will see the rule again. We will not see the allocation of the permits to any groups.
Blazzard- I just want to make sure everybody is thinking right.

Item 6. Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments R657-03
- Krissy Wilson, Native Aquatics Program Coordinator

See Handout

Robert Byrnes- As part of the motion, we need to approve R657-16. Is that correct?
Krissy Wilson- Say that again.
Robert Byrnes- In our packet, we have the changes you also made to the agriculture and fish stocking rule. And the private fish pond rule. Those are all part of this agenda item are they not?
Krissy Wilson- Yes.
Robert Byrnes- Just to make sure we cover that in our motion, not just the CIP rule.
Krissy Wilson- Yes.
Robert Byrnes- I know that we changed the definitions but not sure if it was put in your packets.

RAC Questions

John Cavitt- Clarify on our R657-3-7 what changes there are. Particularly in 1(a). It looks like we have added a species, cowbirds.
Krissy Wilson- What subsection?
John Cavitt- 3-7, take of nuisance birds and mammals. 1(a), I was not clear with the presentation but it looks like from the proposal here that we have removed American crows and added brown headed cowbird. Is that correct?
Krissy Wilson- Jim Parrish is our avian coordinator. He is shaking his head so I would agree.
John Cavitt- Those are the two changes. The other issue is that we have changed the definition for when that is acceptable. I was wondering if a bit more clarification could be given to explain why one species is removed and another one added.
Jim Parrish- The main reason is a service has a depredation order on crows, ravens and magpies. Not on ravens, just on crows and magpies. Ravens were not included in that because of the potential to take ravens when you think you are taking crows. We separated crows and magpies mainly for the services depredation order that has been in effect for a while now.
John Cavitt- Change in the definition for when found damaging property. You have brought in the definition.
Jim Parrish- Back to the depredation order again. It is only when crows or magpies are shown to be damaging property or agricultural crops. It is mainly for an agricultural situation. The depredation order has that restriction. There has to be a documented and indication that you are really having damage from those species before you could move.
John Cavitt- Previously, if you had an agricultural issue that was covered. But now, if I have a magpie taking my cat food, it seems that would be potentially ok for me to take.
Jim Parrish- Where do you live?
John Cavitt- Hooper.
Jim Parrish- None of this supersedes municipality, city or county rules on discharging firearms or whatever. Those are still in place. It is mainly for rural situations when you are outside of an incorporated areas. Although it is not stated that way. You would still have to comply with state, city and county rules and limitations on discharging firearms. There is nothing in the rule to imply to change that.
Ann Neville- You could snare.
Jim Parrish- Yes, you could snare them I suppose.
John Cavitt- Is there any concern that folks similarly with the confusion of American crow and raven would confuse brown headed cowbird and black bird?
Jim Parrish- Good point.
Ann Neville- Female.
Jim Gaskill- Why are cowbirds included?
Jim Parrish- There is no particular reason like magpies or any other species. If they are causing damage, we did not see any reason to restrict removing cowbirds. There is no indication of any issues with the populations.
Jim Gaskill- Considerably number of blackbirds than cowbirds. I have never seen a large infestation of cowbirds.
Ann Neville- That you know of.
Jim Parrish- They flock together in the winter. I don't know what the population numbers are.
John Blazzard- The main reason crows were taken off the list was a confusion issue between those and ravens?

Jim Parrish- They are covered under a depredation order by the service and so you have to comply with restrictions on the depredation order. We did not want any confusion with what the service is doing. You can take the crows but it has to be shown that they are damaging in an agricultural situation and with a COR. We changed them for that reason primarily.
John Blazzard- Through the depredation deal, I know in Summit county they are saying the crows like sage grouse eggs?
Jim Parrish- They do that. Typically, when we have that documented the wildlife service's respond to that. We have had areas where crows are taking sage grouse eggs.
Ann Neville- 4-5 years ago the division explored that particular cave on Kennecott property and could not find that snail that was found in 1929. Is this a precautionary change? Why the change?
Krissy Wilson- It is precautionary because we have not paid a lot of attention to our mollusk species. Very little surveys have been done. We believe many of these historical documentations don't cover to the extent of what is truly the population. If we have it protected and are able to get out and do more surveys and find them in an additional location, then they will be protected.
Ann Neville- I might have to talk to Marty about what responsibilities landowners have on protecting that cave.
Krissy Wilson- Yes. You could talk to me. I oversee that program and this year we are going to focus a good portion to doing some surveys. We want to get those species off of the list.
Jim Gaskill- I am assuming that under the definition for domestic you meant generations not fenerations.
Krissy Wilson- Is it in there?
Jim Gaskill- Is says fenerations which is a good word but that does not apply here.
Robert Byrnes- Where is that at?
Jim Gaskill- The definition of domestic.
Krissy Wilson- Mine says generations. Yours says fenerations?
Jim Gaskill- Yes, it says fenerations.
Krissy Wilson- We will double check that to make sure it is correct in the final version.

RAC Comment

Joel Ferry- I just don't see the logic in destroying goose eggs and goose nests when there are other options available. The population in Utah last year was down 40-50%. Our wild goose population. I think there are better things we can do than just squashing eggs. I have a real problem with that. I know it is a federal rule and it matches the federal rule but it does not mean we have to do it.
John Cavitt- Concerned about broadening situations in when we can remove these species. In no way do I disagree with the fact that there are times in which these species can considerably damage agriculture, livestock and that kind of thing. It seems now by removing this particular section, we have opened it up to anyone's interpretation and in addition, there is no reporting requirement or anything. I am concerned with that portion of this.
Ann Neville- There needs to be some accountability for what is taken. I have been around enough people to know that they have no idea what they are shooting or destroying. I have some concern about changing the rule to the extent that there could be a lot of incidental or accidental type of take.

Krissy Wilson- Jim, do you want to address that?
Jim Parrish- All of those that are in all of the avian species in that particular section are less restricted under federal rule. In respect to what the fish and wildlife does, the state has the option to be more restrictive. If this council chooses to do that, we would try and comply with that. That is always the case. Wildlife in Utah belong to the people of Utah. We have the option to be more restrictive if that is a concern. There is flexibility with those species on the federal level that we are trying to comply with.
John Cavitt- It bothers me that I am required as a researcher to get a COR just to put a band on a birds leg. Whereas, someone to remove any number of these species here, there is no notification at all.
Jim Gaskill- It does not seem to me like they have loosened it very much. It has always kind of been an unwritten rule that if a magpie was around, it was doing something wrong so you could shoot it. I don't think this loosens it, it changes it. In the old one it said when found committed or about to commit. It is different words but I don't see much loosening of this rule over the old one.
John Cavitt- I don't want to make it tighter, I just want to keep it as it was currently.
Jim Gaskill- About to commit.
John Cavitt- That is spelling out those situations in which it is appropriate to take those birds. I am a little concerned about adding cowbirds.
Jim Gaskill- I am wondering about cowbirds as well.
John Cavitt- That concerns me that we have restricted it now where I see a magpie about to take my cats food and I can take it because it is my real property.
John Blazzard- Speaking from agricultural standpoint, anything that simplifies the worries we have about breaking the rule out of madness or whatever. I understand why crows have to be taken out but I wish they weren't. They are a real pain in the neck certain times of the year. You see a calf with its eyes pecked out and I wish I could shoot him. I don't have a problem with spelling out reasons why we can take these. I like the idea that I don't have to remember to get a core before I can do it.
John Cavitt- There is no COR requirement before either. That would not change.
John Blazzard- I understand.

Motion

Motion- Cavitt- Move to accept the proposal as presented with the exception R657-3-7, 1(a) to read: A person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to kill Black-billed Magpies, House Sparrows, European Starlings or domestic pigeons, (Rock Doves) when found committing, or about to commit depredation upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock, or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance, provided:
Gaskill- So, you want to leave in the old stuff and leave in the new stuff except for cowbirds.
Cavitt- Under that section 1(a) leave in a person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to kill blackbilled magpies when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops or wildlife. And then the additional species that have been added here. House sparrows, European starlings and pigeons.
Gaskill- You don't want to add in there when concentrated in such numbers?

Cavitt- That is already in the original.
Gaskill- You want to leave that in.
Byrnes- Can I state it? Your change would be leave it as proposed until you get to cowbirds. Strike cowbirds. After rock doves, you would have when found committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife. You would strike the remaining change which is when found damaging personal or real property.
Gaskill- Scratch American crows.
Byrnes- We would leave American crows or magpies, leave that entire strikeout there initially. Then you have the proposed changes to the birds, blackbilled magpies. You would strike cowbirds. You would leave house sparrows and European starlings. You would leave or domestic pigeons or rock doves and add in the original depredation language which is when found committing or about to commit depredations on ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife. You would strike the remaining change which is when found damaging personal or real property.
Cavitt- Scratch American crows.
Byrnes- American crows or magpies, leave that entire strikeout there initially then you have the proposed changes to the birds, blackbilled magpies. You would strike cowbirds and leave house sparrows and European starlings. You would leave or domestic pigeons (rock doves). You would leave in the original depredation language which is found committing or about to commit depredations on ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife. Strike the proposed change when found damaging personal or real property.

Second- Neville

Discussion on the Motion

Jim Parrish- Could you repeat one more time what the language would read please? This is section 7-1(a) you are talking about?
Byrnes- Yes. So, we get down and you have your first initial strike out. That would all remain.
Neville- A person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to kill blackbilled magpies, cowbirds, house sparrows, European starlings or domestic pigeons (rock doves) when found damaging personal or real property or when constituting such numbers in a matter to constitute health hazard or other nuisance.
Byrnes- Except cowbirds were struck. We want to take cowbirds out.
Cavitt- Basically, everything as you have it currently or as the rule stands now. We would remove American crow and put in your new species with the exception of cowbirds.
Jim Parrish- And the language when found committed or about to commit would stay? Including about to commit?
Byrnes- Yes.
Jim Parrish- How would one demonstrate about to commit. That was part of our question.
Thurgood- The look in its eyes.
Cavitt- I am in favor of being more restrictive. However, I am guessing that would not fly.
John Blazzard- Are we going to deal with the fish agriculture stocking separately.

Byrnes- As the motion currently stands, yes. Right now we just have a change to the proposal and then we will have a motion for the remainder. In that remainder motion, we need to include those two rules.

Motion Passes- For: 9 **Against:** 1
Gaskill- I think it is kind of vague. It still allows you to shoot a magpie whenever you want.

Motion- Blazzard- Approve the remainder of the CIP Rule plus R657-16 and R657-59 as presented.
Second- Wall
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Byrnes- I think we need to go back to the conservation permit rule and make sure we covered everything there. We probably need to have a motion to approve the remainder of the proposal as presented.
Ferry- Of Rule 657 right? We just approved the change
Byrnes-I am talking about the conservation permit rule and we have made the changes that Bryce proposed.
Neville- So, we are talking about the last motion?
Byrnes- Yes. We need to jump back to number 5 and make sure we covered everything on that item. The motion was just to change the wording on those two items and we need to make sure we approve the remainder of the rule as proposed.
Gaskill- I thought that is what John said.
Thurgood- You are talking about number 4 and 5.
Byrnes- Number 5, yes. I think the motion was just to change the wording on those two items. Was that your original motion just to change the wording on those two items?
Thurgood- And number 3 right? One deals with the turkey permits.
Byrnes- We just need to have a motion to adopt the remainder of that conservation permit rule and amendments as presented.

***Continuance of Conservation Permit Rule Amendment R657- 41**

Motion

Motion- Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board adopt the remainder of the Conservation Permit Rule Amendments R657-41 as presented.
Second- Lawrence

Discussion on the motion

Gaskill- I think we are giving the turkey permit holders more than they really need. They already have from April 1st to May 31st to kill a turkey. They are only restricted in the unit that is originally applied for. I think we have already given them enough.

Motion Carries- Unanimous

Item 7. Division Variance Rule Amendments R657-57
- Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief

See Handout

RAC Questions

Robert Byrnes- Our material we were provided has two days.
Greg Sheehan- We are kicking around if you hunted for two days. Staci sent an update I think last Monday to all the RAC and board members to change it to one day.
Robert Byrnes- I have been out of town so I probably did not catch up on all my emails.
Greg Sheehan- You might not have caught it. We were going to do two days then there was some concern internally with some discussions we had that basically said that maybe two days was too long to hunt. This is kind of a social thing. I don't know the right answer. We did want to acknowledge that there are some circumstances when people go out on day one and get out with their horses and fall off or have a heart attack or crash their ATV and it happens the first morning of their first time or something and get hurt. We just wanted to have some latitude to be able to address that. At some point in the hunt, you have had opportunity to hunt and kills something. We've all had good and bad hunts.
Robert Byrnes- Your presentation is one day.
Greg Sheehan- Yes, and that should be the most recent thing that you got from Staci.
Bryce Thurgood- On that OIAL you talked about moving the season extension instead of the bonus point restoration. Would it be too much of a stretch just on that category alone to let them choose between a bonus point restoration or season extension? Let them choose between both of them. It is a OIAL and a lot of times on those OIAL you are dealing with people that have been putting in for a long time.
Greg Sheehan- If you made a motion to move it which they did last night but some of the other RAC's didn't. To move just that category into this season extension category. It is difficult to draw those permits and we haven't had a lot.
Bryce Thurgood- You have only had seven.
Greg Sheehan- You see this expediential growth but you have not seen really an overwhelming growth in the OIAL. Most people who draw those want to go use them. You don't know what the next year holds. Not many people want to wait a year to use these permits if they get them.
Bryce Thurgood- Give some people the chance at the bonus point restoration if they want to do that. Put that in both categories just for OIAL.
Greg Sheehan- I think our attorney Marty is here. They would always have the option to surrender that or get their points back right? We don't need to have it in both categories right?
Marty Bushman- Yes.
Greg Sheehan- We do. We could say optionally, they could be in both. If they qualify, at their discretion to get their points back or have it automatically. There could be a situation where they would want them back. If you got maximum points and you are not sure if you are going to be healthy again by next year, you may want your points back because at max points, you are going to draw.

Public Questions

Ryan Foutz- FNAWS- A guy from Washington bought a conservation permit and broke his foot on the second day going into the dirty devil. I would hate to see a guy who had a bunch of points have no recourse because he did hunt one day. He has not killed anything. Is that too restrictive or do you guys just want it one day and then it is said and done and everyone goes away. If we pass this, nobody has any recourse to go towards the board for anything. That is troubling for me just for the OIAL guys.

Public Comments

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Last night, they passed a different version of this and moving the OIAL over to the season extension. I think Bryce brings up a great point that if we could possibly move the OIAL variances over to give them an option to either a season extension or to get their points back, that would be a great idea.

Ryan Foutz- FNAWS- concerned that you are going to take all of that authority away. If this passes and goes that route, nobody really has any kind of recourse. Let's say I was packing in on the Zion unit for a day to set camp up and the hunt was open and I went out and hunted the next day, the second day and I broke my ankle, I'm done. If I understand this correct.

Robert Byrnes- In your example though, if you are packing in and you didn't actually hunt that day, that probably would not be a day of hunting.

Ryan Foutz- But I would be carrying a rifle, the season would be open so now it is left open to interpretation and that is when you get into the real gray area. I am not saying two days is actually the magic number. I am saying that you have someone with a OIAL tag and all I am eluding to is kind of where Bryce was going. I don't want to overburden you guys with this but I would hate to take out some flexibility the wildlife board would have.

RAC Comments

Bryce Thurgood- Could we propose maybe two or three days for the OIAL and leave it one day for the rest of them? Is that getting too confusing? I see the point. OIAL you only have one chance so maybe at least go back to the two day rule.

Greg Sheehan- However you guys want to present it. This is largely a social issue we are dealing with not much of a resource issue. I don't know what the right answer is. There are a lot of weird situations that could happen out there and all of them have merit.

Bryce Thurgood- I would almost propose then that we just stick with the divisions recommendations on all of the regular hunts. On the OIAL, take out the days and just let the wildlife board hear the request and let them make the decision.

Greg Sheehan- I still think you would need a number of days. And if they wanted to appeal that because they only had one day, that could be a basis to go to the board. The board would never hear any of these until some trigger happened.

Joel Ferry- Just because you draw OIAL doesn't guarantee a harvest. There is all sorts of things that happen besides personal injury that can mess up a hunt. So, there is no guarantee in this. Making the board review every single one of these just seems a little ridiculous to me which is what your rule is trying to address. I think we need to recognize there is no guarantees in this and that there should be some sort of a guideline like what you are saying.

Greg Sheehan- With what we have proposed or any variation that you may come up with, we are so much more relief oriented than any other state out there. Some have a few situations where they will grant relief. Wyoming does it on sheep and moose. Most states don't do

anything or do very little. All of this, either the old rule or anything we come up with is still pretty liberal if you look at neighboring states.
Bruce Sillitoe- Speaking of other states, I believe Nevada will grant a variance. You can actually surrender your permit and I think what that really does is create an incentive for those people to actually want to put in for various hunts. When they get the big one, the OIAL, that allows them to surrender but what they do is keep the money.
Greg Sheehan- We have a surrender rule as well that is similar. You can surrender your permit up until the day of the hunt. You can get your money back within 30 days.
Bryce Thurgood- At least on the OIAL, I would like to see at least 2 or 3 days.

Motion

Motion- Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Division variance rule as presented with the exception of Once in a Lifetime, Big Game could have a choice of Bonus Point restoration or season extension and Substantially precluded means: Three day hunting for Once in a lifetime and one day hunting for other hunts.
Greg Sheehan- No board variance relief?
Robert Byrnes- That would be on the board variance relief. The trigger would be applicant hunts no more than three days.
Greg Sheehan- There is two places then. One is back where we talk about how many days you hunted that the division could address it. Then, Bryce is saying if you hunted more than 3 days and didn't harvest and you were injured, you could appeal to the board.
Neville- You can't even apply right?
Joel Ferry- This says you cannot even consider a variance if you have hunted more than one day.
Greg Sheehan- The board can't hear an appeal of that if you have hunted more than a day.
Joel Ferry- We are saying the board cannot appeal if you have hunted more than three. So basically you are done.
Ernie Perkins- Once in a life time.
Greg Sheehan- So, if you go hunt three days and break your leg and have not harvested yet, the board still cannot hear it.
Bryce Thurgood- Yes.
Greg Sheehan- So, this really hasn't got anything to do with the board. We would change the rule and say one day or less hunting for all species except OIAL for three days or less. The thing about the board holds true.
Bryce Thurgood- Yes.
Robert Byrnes- I think you have to change both of them don't you because the board's authority is listed separately.
Greg Sheehan- Yes. Then the board one would say applicant hunts more than one day or three days for OIAL species.
Robert Byrnes- In the actual rule, is the preclusion only listed in one place?
Greg Sheehan- The preclusion is but the board's authority is in a different place.
Robert Byrnes- Is that listed specifically one day in the board's authority or does it just say precluded there?
Greg Sheehan- It probably says precluded. I would have to ask our attorney who wrote it. So, it is two separate places. If you make a motion, he will fix the rule if that is what passes.

Marty Bushman- The preclusion for one hunt day binds both the division under its authority and the board's respective authority and it appears in two places in the rule. If the motion is to change it to 3 days the question is can the board only consider three days while the division is bound to one. Or, do you want both the board and the division to have three days.
Robert Byrnes- If we just change the definition of the preclusion, would it apply throughout the rule?
Marty Bushman- Yes. Whatever you want, we can write the rule to make it work. I just have to make sure I know what you want.
Robert Byrnes- Your motion will just change the definition of preclusion for OIAL species to three days hunting.

Second- Lawrence
Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 8. Deer Management Plans
- Darren Debloois, Assistant Wildlife Manager

See Handout

RAC Questions

Ann Neville- Are the rankings based upon a reference site or benchmark?
Darren Debloois- They are based on the range trend sites. Depending on the unit, there could be anywhere from 8 to 12 sites. The ranking is based per site. What we have tried to do is select representative sites throughout a unit for winter range.
Ann Neville- So that is a reference.
Darren Debloois- This is a reference site.
John Blazzard- Those are all winter units?
Darren Debloois- Primarily, yes. Mule deer winter range is what they are looking at. The DCI pertains to that.
Russ Lawrence- On those DCI's again, 50 acres burned where that site is, is there human element to interpret that?
Darren Debloois- We have moved sites. We like to maintain a site whenever possible because then it gives us a long-term data trend. If we have a burn or if there is a housing development that goes in, we will discontinue that site and try to pick another site if possible.

Public Comment

Byron Bateman- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Would like to see more habitat work done in the northern region. Support the division's recommendation.
Robert Byrnes- We will see these after the range trend study again right?
Darren Debloois- The range trend was done last year so we be rewriting plans this summer and I assume at this meeting next year, you will see new updated deer plan.

Motion

Motion- Gaskill- Recommend the approval of deer management plans as presented.
Second- Cavitt
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Item 9 Elk Management Plans
- Darren Debloois, Assistant Wildlife Manager

See Handout

RAC Questions

Ann Neville- Maybe I misunderstood but it seemed like you were trying to increase the deer populations in Kamas, was that correct?
Darren Debloois- Right now, the current plan does not represent and increase over the old objective.
Ann Neville- Right, but you are not meeting objective.
Darren Debloois- Right.
Ann Neville- But you are going to up the elk objective. Do they conflict?
Darren Debloois- That is a difficult question. I think in some areas and in some instances they do and typically it is because elk inhabit an area that deer are excluded from. I have Dave here tonight if he wants to speak to that a little bit on the Kamas unit specifically.
Ann Neville- I was just looking at the numbers and it just didn't seem intuitive to me. I know there are a lot of studies that say they are not necessarily competitive but then there are also some that they could be.
Darren Debloois- That is kind of where we are. We don't have any hard evidence that is occurring but that was a concern on the East Canyon unit and that is one of the reasons we did not increase that objective. Dave, do you want to address Kamas?
Dave Rich- On the Kamas unit, the population objective before the plan was 650. With the committee and everybody we came together and added 200 animals up to 850. That number largely came from years past. That population objective on the Kamas was 6-8 years ago and was 850 and for whatever reason it was not part of that process. They reduced it back to 650 so our committee's recommendation was just to take it back up to what it normally was. There is ample habitat to support those animals. We have not had any depredation issues to speak of. The range is in pretty good shape. The Kamas unit has a lot of forest. There is some private and we are able to take care of the depredation issues as they occur.
Ann Neville- So, you are not worried about the deer population?
Dave Rich- We are not seeing that much overlap between the deer and elk on that Kamas unit.
Ann Neville- Do you have any idea why it is not meeting objective of the drought and other things like that.
Dave Rich- Deer population numbers are down pretty much statewide.
Darren Debloois- If you get a chance to look at those range trend studies, it is fairly clear that elk probably are not the major issue in all areas. We basically gone from brush on some units to grass and that is why we do not have the deer. On the Kamas, we felt like there was not enough competition and that was not a concern.

Public Comments

Byron Bateman- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Want to see more habitat work in the northern region. That is what is critical for deer and elk. Support division's recommendations. Support balance of the statewide recommendations that you have in your packets. There is going to be a new open bull unit proposed on the west side of Oak Creek and Beaver.
Robert Byrnes- That was not part of your presentation but I do it on part of the bottom of our packet.
Darren Debloois- I was just trying to address the regional stuff so if I missed something, I apologize.
Robert Byrnes- There is a recommendation changing the Fillmore Oak Creek south and part of the Beaver unit west of I-15 to general any bull units. That should be part of our motion. The council should've seen the other changes in other regions which are probably a part of our motion also.

RAC Comment

John Blazzard- When we were in this group discussing the elk in those three areas, the consensus I got is that it does not matter what we set the objective at if we are always over it. Maybe the objective does not mean anything but if it does which I think it does, we need to be able to give the division or have the wildlife board or whoever give the division enough tools and opportunities to be able to get those numbers to the objective. Where we are over by 300%. Even Kamas being over by 130%, we need to get those numbers down because I personally believe for my time being on the range that the elk are pushing the deer and herding them in the winter. I think if we are going to try and get our deer numbers up, we need to at least hit our objective with our elk numbers. Then, I personally think that the deer will start to rebound. We need to be able to support whoever it is that makes that decision to give them all the tools to make that happen.
Robert Byrnes- I certainly mirror your opinion as far as we need to get those numbers down, especially if they are affecting the habitat. Not just what they need for their habitat but the other animals on the range.

Motion

Motion- Wall- Recommend the wildlife board approve the Elk Management Plans as presented.
Second- Van Tassell
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Item 10. Hardware Ranch Management Plan
- Dan Christensen, Hardware Ranch Program Manager

See Handout

RAC Comment

Jim Gaskill- I have heard this twice now and I liked it both times. I appreciate what you have done and I think we all consider Hardware Ranch to be a jewel.

Motion

Motion- Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board adopt the Hardware Ranch Management plan as presented.
Second -Neville
Motion Carries- Unanimous

Item 11. Hunting Closure Proposal
- Brent Poll, Landowner

Motion- Gaskill- Reconsider the tabled issue.
Second- Neville

Robert Byrnes- Hunting closure proposal by Brent Poll who is a landowner. I do not believe he is here and no one here to represent Mr. Poll. You should have all received a packet from Staci with the information Mr. Poll provided. I would like to go ahead and act on this since it has been on the agenda twice and we have not had any representation from the Poll's.

See Handout

Robert Byrnes- You have all had a chance to read the material I hope. We will go ahead and have Scott give the divisions position on their hunting closure proposal.
Scott Davis- Last December, Brent and Len Poll came into our division and they own 100 acres of property in South Weber. South of that property is the Davis county landfill which gives you an idea of where that is at. They are really concerned about public safety and so are we. I had 3 officers go over and meet with the Poll's and one other landowner. They looked at the property and met with the Poll's. We listened to what they had to say and their proposal which you have before you. They want to close the general deer hunt, one mile perimeter from HAFB. We have set down and told the Poll's when we met with them that we were not in agreement with the closure. You are better off posting your property then you can allow people to hunt that property and we can place a lot of emphasis and I offered that to the Poll's. We have one officer that lives 5 miles from the property and another that is 10 minutes from their property. I told them we would be more than glad to help. The reasons we did support the proposal are as follows: It appears that not all potential affected landowners have been notified of this proposal. It is not just the Poll family, there are 6 or 7 other landowners in this same general area that would be affected. Landowners can exclude individuals from their property by properly posting the boundary closed to trespass. The division is concerned that this closure will be difficult to administer. In addition, it will be difficult to inform the public of this closure and its boundaries. Closed hunting will not provide any additional protection for the landowner that is not already provided by posting the property against trespass. One thing I failed to mention in the beginning is there are a lot of deer on this property. I'm sure just knowing hunters, that they are going to go into this area and hunt. We will do the best we can. I wish the Poll's were here tonight and I could talk to them but we are going to make the

offer again to go in and spend some time to see if we can help them with trespass problems. Closing private property hunting at the request of the landowner will create a precedent and invite other landowners to make similar requests. Then all difficulties and problems associated with a single closure will be compound and many fold across the state. If we had a choice, we would post the property to no trespassing and put some enforcement efforts in the area. If we close it to hunting, it really limits what we can do in law enforcement. If we go up there and it is posted property and we apprehend someone who has killed a deer, it is a lot more of a violation. That individual can be put in for suspension for one year based on trespass. If this particular recommendation went through, we would not have that.

RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- Isn't most of that property in the limits of South Weber?
Scott Davis- It's not. Its unincorporated Davis County. At one time, Davis County had a closure to the discharge of firearms. It wasn't until of late that they changed the law so that is no longer available to them.
Jim Gaskill- A mile boundary around HAFB includes South Weber, Riverdale, Clearfield, Sunset and Layton. I don't think you can shoot a gun in any of those cities.
Scott Davis- I would have to check. Most of the towns you mentioned in Davis County are closed to the discharge of firearm and/or hunting.
Robert Byrnes- He does own private property in South Weber and also the unincorporated areas. His proposal he provided in writing was a one mile boundary. It says all locations within one mile of HAFB which is exactly what you are describing. We will just go through our standard procedure.

Motion

Motion- Neville- Recommend the Wildlife Board reject the Poll Hunting Closure Proposal.
Second- Gaskill

John Blazzard- I have property with a lot of deer on it also and I have people shooting down through my cows trying to get a deer late at night with a spotlight. I think the trespass issue is the best and easiest way to deal with that.
Robert Byrnes- Most of our philosophy in the Utah and west is that private property is the landowner's property to manage how they want and their responsibility. I really feel that they need to post it and try and enforce that with the additional help from the division will be the best way to manage that.

Motion Carries- Unanimous

Justin Dolling- Commemorative coins given as a token of appreciation to the council.

Meeting Ends: 9:57 p.m.

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE WILDLIFE BOARD

JUNE 06 2012

Permit Holder:	RANDELL MURRAY
Type of Hunting Permit:	2011 LE Bear, Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South #7300
Season Date:	04/09-05/31, 08/27-09/30 & 11/1-20/2011
Received Variance Request:	01/12/2012
Received Permit:	01/12/2012
Variance Request:	Randell Murray fractured his ankle during his hunt on September 2nd and tried to hunt for one day.
Variance Committee Authority:	The Division's authority to grant a variance is limited to persons that are completely precluded from participating in the activity authorized by a wildlife document, or substantially impaired from filing a timely application because of:

- Personal illness or injury
- The death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member; or
- Mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed forces, a public health organization, or public safety organization in the interest of national defense of a national emergency

Variance Committee Review : The Variance committee reviewed Randell Murray's request on February 14, 2012. His request was denied because it falls outside the authority granted to the committee.

Variance Committee Recommendation:

Based on the fact that the hunter only hunted one day because of his fractured ankle, the committee is supportive of the reinstatement of his bonus points and waiving his waiting period.

Wildlife Board Approval/Denial: _____

Date Letter mailed: _____

Comments: _____

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE WILDLIFE BOARD

JUNE 06 2012

Permit Holder: CHRIS FLOOD

Type of Hunting Permit: 2011 LE Bull Elk, Plateau-Fishlake-Thousand Lakes #3020

Season Date: 09/20-09/16, 2011

Received Variance Request: 09/13/2011

Received Permit: 09/13/2011

Variance Request: Chris Flood hunted one day when he was involved in an accident and rolled his truck.

Variance Committee Authority: The Division's authority to grant a variance is limited to persons that are completely precluded from participating in the activity authorized by a wildlife document, or substantially impaired from filing a timely application because of:

- Personal illness or injury
- The death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member; or
- Mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed forces, a public health organization, or public safety organization in the interest of national defense of a national emergency

Variance Committee Review : The Variance committee reviewed Chris Flood's request on March 20, 2012. His request was denied because it falls outside the authority granted to the committee.

Variance Committee Recommendation:

Based on the fact that the hunter only hunted one day because of his accident, the committee is supportive of the reinstatement of his bonus points and waiving his waiting period.

Wildlife Board Approval/Denial: _____

Date Letter mailed: _____

Comments: _____

To the Division Of Wildlife,

My name is Chris Flood

I wanted to write a short note about why I should receive my LE Elk tag back.. Late night September 8, 2011. My wife and I went down to begin our hunt at fish lake national forest the next day September 9, 2011 was able to hunt a little bit in between storms that night we drove to glass a canyon when I started to not feel good I was going to put the truck in park and I blacked out and cause us to drive off the road and flip the truck. My wife was 4 and a half month pregnant she was not injured. I was injured in the accident I hurt my shoulder and was not able to draw my bow back for the rest of the season and didn't have any transportation to fish lake to finish out my hunt my truck was totaled. Since the accident lacey and I have had our baby girl 2-24-12 and would mean so much if I was able to get the chance to receive my LE Elk tag for this year never have shot a Bull Elk.. I have been in the dedicated hunter program I help build the Ice fishing thing for kids at the Sportsmens show in salt lake enjoyed helping do things for the kids i'm honest and respectful to the land that we get to hunt on.. And want kids to be able to enjoy what we have today.

Sign,

Chris Flood

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE WILDLIFE BOARD

JUNE 06 2012

Permit Holder: GARRY R BIGLER

Type of Hunting Permit: 2011 General Buck deer Northern, #1501

Season Date: 10/22-30, 2011

Received Variance Request: 02/10/2012

Received Permit: 02/10/2012

Variance Request: Garry Bigler was part of a group of 5 that applied in the drawing for general season permits. The group leader, his brother and his son were refunded through the Variance process. Garry and his son are both extended family and did not meet the definition of immediate family so they could not be refunded.

Variance Committee Authority: The Division's authority to grant a variance is limited to persons that are completely precluded from participating in the activity authorized by a wildlife document, or substantially impaired from filing a timely application because of:

- The death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member;
  - "Immediate family member" means a person's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother, sister, parent, stepparent, grandparent, mother-in-law, or father-in –law;

Variance Committee Review : The Variance committee reviewed Garry Bigler's request on February 28, 2012. His request was denied because it falls outside the authority granted to the committee.

Variance Committee Recommendation:

The committee would recommend to deny this request based on the fact the hunter did not meet the definition of "immediate family member" .

Wildlife Board Approval/Denial: _____

Date Letter mailed: _____

Comments: _____

Father of Son-in-Law
to Edward

February 10, 2012

To: Department of Wildlife Resources

I am sending you this application for refund, which I made payment for 2012 big game hunting licenses in the total amount of $1152.00. Please refer to the attachments also provided for support and verification of my request.

My plans to host a year 2012 family hunting reunion was made impossible due to a serious and crippling accident on June 07, 2011. I experienced critical injury from a 13 foot fall from the roof of my residence. And I sustained multiple spinal and rib fractures, and shoulder, arm and elbow fractures, a serious concussion which caused bleeding of the left brain.

I will have continued follow-up doctors visits in the coming months. I am presently having physical therapy to help me to recover the muscular and neuro losses to my body. Hopefully I will recover sufficient enough that I will be able to walk again without the aid of braces and other walking devises.

I am also providing you other data that I anticipate will confirm my honesty and integrity to you, and that you will find my request favorable for reimbursement.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,
Edward W. Graves
E. W. Graves

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE WILDLIFE BOARD

JUNE 06 2012

Permit Holder: GARY W BIGLER

Type of Hunting Permit: 2011 General Buck deer Northern, #1501

Season Date: 10/22-30, 2011

Received Variance Request: 02/10/2012

Received Permit: 02/10/2012

Variance Request: Gary Bigler was part of a group of 5 that applied in the drawing for general season permits. The group leader, his brother and his son were refunded through the Variance process. Gary and his father are both extended family and did not meet the definition of immediate family so they could not be refunded.

Variance Committee Authority: The Division's authority to grant a variance is limited to persons that are completely precluded from participating in the activity authorized by a wildlife document, or substantially impaired from filing a timely application because of:

- The death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member;
  - "Immediate family member" means a person's spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, brother, sister, parent, stepparent, grandparent, mother-in-law, or father-in –law;

Variance Committee Review : The Variance committee reviewed Gary Bigler's request on February 28, 2012. His request was denied because it falls outside the authority granted to the committee.

Variance Committee Recommendation:

The committee would recommend to deny this request based on the fact the hunter did not meet the definition of "immediate family member" .

Wildlife Board Approval/Denial: _____

Date Letter mailed: _____

Comments: _____

Edward's Son-In-Law

February 10, 2012

To: Department of Wildlife Resources

I am sending you this application for refund, which I made payment for 2012 big game hunting licenses in the total amount of $1152.00. Please refer to the attachments also provided for support and verification of my request.

My plans to host a year 2012 family hunting reunion was made impossible due to a serious and crippling accident on June 07, 2011. I experienced critical injury from a 13 foot fall from the roof of my residence. And I sustained multiple spinal and rib fractures, and shoulder, arm and elbow fractures, a serious concussion which caused bleeding of the left brain.

I will have continued follow-up doctors visits in the coming months. I am presently having physical therapy to help me to recover the muscular and neuro losses to my body. Hopefully I will recover sufficient enough that I will be able to walk again without the aid of braces and other walking devises.

I am also providing you other data that I anticipate will confirm my honesty and integrity to you, and that you will find my request favorable for reimbursement.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,
Edward W. Graves

E. W. Graves

VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE WILDLIFE BOARD

JUNE 06 2012

Permit Holder:	DENNIS KALLASH
Type of Hunting Permit:	2011 OIAL Bull Moose, Two Bear CWMU #6224
Season Date:	Contact Operator
Received Variance Request:	01/25/2012
Received Permit:	01/26/2012
Variance Request:	Dennis Kallash hunted two days when he was notified that his brother was in critical condition from an accident with a horse. The operator, Kim Rolfe has given his permission for Dennis Kallash to hunt next year if his variance is approved.
Variance Committee Authority:	The Division's authority to grant a variance is limited to persons that are completely precluded from participating in the activity authorized by a wildlife document, or substantially impaired from filing a timely application because of:

- Personal illness or injury
- The death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family member; or
- Mobilization or deployment under orders of the United States Armed forces, a public health organization, or public safety organization in the interest of national defense of a national emergency

Variance Committee Review : The Variance committee reviewed Dennis Kallash's request on February 14, 2012. His request was denied because it falls outside the authority granted to the committee.

Variance Committee Recommendation:

The committee would recommend to deny this request based on the fact the hunter had opportunity and did hunt for two days.

Wildlife Board Approval/Denial: _____

Date Letter mailed: _____

Comments: _____

January 31, 2012

Utah Division Wildlife Resources
Attention: Judi Tutorow
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Judi:

My name is Dennis Kallash, and I am writing this letter to let you know that I was hunting on 2 Bear Ranch in October of 2011.

After hunting a couple of days I received an emergency phone call from my family that my brother, John, was in a very serious accident with a horse and was in serious condition. I left the hunt immediately, and drove back to Missouri to the hospital to meet with the ICU doctors and did not get to finish my hunt.

I spoke with Suzette with the Division of Wildlife Resources and she asked me to send you my moose tag and a letter from Bucks & Bulls Guides & Outfitters, Inc. which is enclosed and this letter.

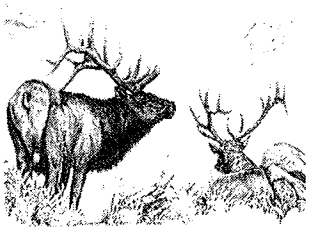
I am requesting a variance to have the opportunity to return to 2 Bear Ranch and hunt Shiras Moose in 2012.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kallash

Karen A Andes
Notary Public

KAREN A. ANDES
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
PIKE COUNTY
Commission # 11386389
My Commission Expires 8/26/2015



KR Hunting Services, LLC
P.O. Box 901555
Sandy, Utah 84090
(801) 244-8453
(801) 231-4903

March 2, 2012

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Attention: Judi Tutorow
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84144

Judi,

I, Kim Rolfe am the operator of the 2 Bear Ranch CWMU in Summit County.

In 2011 we contracted with Kim Bonnett of Bucks & Bulls Guides & Outfitters Inc. to conduct some of our mule deer and Shiras Moose hunts. They had a moose hunter by the name of Dennis Kallash of Troy, Missouri, that had a family emergency, and was unable to finish his moose hunt.

This letter is to ask if there would be a possibility of allowing Dennis to return and finish his moose hunt in 2012. I have also enclosed a copy of a letter from Kim Bonnett.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Kim V. Rolfe, Managing Member
KR Hunting Services, LLC

BUCKS & BULLS
Guides & Outfitters, Inc.

Kim Bonnett, President
270 North Main
Lindon, Utah 84042
(801) 785-5050

January 25, 2012

Utah Division Wildlife Resources
Attention: Judi Tutorow
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Judi,

My name is Kim Bonnett, and I am President of Bucks & Bulls Guides & Outfitters Inc. We conduct most of the mule deer and Shiras Moose hunts on the 2 Bear Ranch in Summit County. Kim Rolf is the operator of this CWMU. I am writing this letter to you at the request of Dennis Kallash of Troy, Missouri. Dennis hunted Shiras Moose with us on the 2 Bear Ranch in October of 2011. After approximately two days of hunting, Dennis received an emergency phone call from his home, with the sad news that his brother, John, had been kicked in the head by a horse, and was in very serious condition. Within hours, Dennis was on his way back to his home in Missouri. He did not get to finish his moose hunt. Fortunately, John pulled through the ordeal without serious damage.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at the office number at 801-785-5050. I would be pleased to have Dennis have the opportunity to return and have a second chance to finish his Moose hunt in 2012.

Sincerely,

Kim Bonnett
President, Bucks & Bulls Guides & Outfitters Inc.

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
JAMES F. KARPOWITZ
Division Director

May 21, 2012

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Justin Hart
Wildlife Biologist

SUBJECT: Ferron Creek Introduction

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has proposed converting the Ferron Creek drainage from a rainbow/hybrid cutthroat trout species assemblage to a conservation population of pure Colorado River cutthroat trout with sterile rainbow trout and tiger trout components for sport fishing opportunities. This action has two main purposes; 1) to protect the broodstock population of Colorado River cutthroat trout in Duck Fork Reservoir from possible hybridization and, 2) to create a meta-population of Colorado River cutthroat trout to aid in the rangewide restoration efforts for the species. The proposed change has already been approved by the Emery County Commissioners following three public meetings on the subject, and is also supported by San Pete County.

Several actions have already been done to prepare for the project. Rainbow trout stockings in Willow Lake and Wrigley Springs Reservoir were converted from diploid to triploid fish in 2008 to allow replacement of the diploid fish without requiring chemical renovation of the lakes. Also, the spillway at Ferron Reservoir was modified in fall 2010, with Forest approval, to prevent fish from being able to move from the stream back into the reservoir following treatment.

The UDWR has also been working with the Forest on a Passive Integrated Transponder reader station in lower Ferron Creek. Data from this station will help determine the extent of stream use by the unique lentic population of bluehead suckers in Millsite Reservoir. Eventually a barrier will be necessary to prevent movement of sport fish from the reservoir to the stream, and the PIT tag data will enable us to select a location that will not interfere with bluehead spawning migration.

The next step of the project is to chemically renovate Ferron Reservoir and the associated tributary (Upper Indian Creek) with rotenone in September 2011 and June 2012. The first treatment (September 2011) has already been completed. Two treatments are necessary to ensure complete removal of the current fish population. Simply switching the stocking from diploid rainbow trout to sterile triploid fish, as was done in Willow Lake and Wrigley Springs Reservoir, was not an option for Ferron Reservoir because of the presence of brook trout and non native cutthroat trout in the system.

The treatment project is relatively simple and will require no barrier construction or ground disturbance. Prior to treating the lake, the reservoir volume will be reduced by approximately half. Coordination with the water users in the drainage has already been done and they are aware of the potential increase in water levels in Millsite Reservoir beginning in about

July 2011. The small tributary, Upper Indian Creek, should require only one rotenone drip station for about 24 hours to effectively treat the entire stream.

Following the second treatment in 2012, Ferron Reservoir will be refilled and restocked with triploid rainbow trout and pure Colorado River cutthroat trout. Because catchable sized rainbow trout have been requested, sport fishing opportunity should be available immediately after restocking.

Future work in the Ferron Creek drainage will require the construction of barriers. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources recognizes that these future plans will require NEPA. Data collection and mapping for the necessary Environmental Assessment will begin in summer 2012.

Poll Enterprises, LLC

Partners

Glen Poll
Lynn Poll
Brent Poll
Margie Mayfield

(801) 479-3786
(801) 479-6994
(801) 479-3588

22 March 2012

Robert Byrnes
Division of Wildlife Resources
c/o Staci Coons – Director's Office
1594 W. North Temple, Suite 2110
P.O. Box 146301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Subject: Proposal to Close Rifle Deer Hunt –
Your email of 2/27/12

Dear Mr. Byrnes,

Our family reviewed the subject email. We have been in contact with former State official Haven Barlow (our adjacent neighbor with property in unincorporated Davis County) who concurs with us regarding the safety problem at issue. We also participated in meetings about this problem with State Representative Brad Dee and Governor Herbert, and in another meeting involving DWR officials with an attorney for the State's Office of the Attorney General attending.

In short, we are striving through every means available to resolve the safety hazard posed by your current rifle deer hunting season that allows high-powered rifles to be used immediately adjacent to Hill AFB, within 400 yards of the South Weber Elementary School and with approximately 10,000 residents of the cities of South Weber and Layton living well within lethal rifle range.

In answer to the questions posed in your letter:

(1) We want the rifle deer hunting season closed for all locations within one mile of the Hill AFB.

(2) A photo showing the primary areas of concern is enclosed along with our prior correspondence on this subject.

1375 E. 7605 S. • South Weber, UT • 84405

(3) Concerning the safety issue, virtually no one (including the Governor, the DWR officials in the Ogden Office, and others cited in the correspondence) contends that firing high-powered rifles is NOT a major threat to area residents, and Hill AFB and its employees, military and resources.

(4) We post our property, patrol it regularly and have a decades-long history of seeking assistance from the Davis County Sheriff's department to apprehend trespassers and poachers. However, all involved acknowledge that the unique location (denying ready/quick access) makes apprehensions unlikely.

(5) Haven Barlow is the only other major landowner affected. Others are either 'protected' by existing restrictions (closeness to roads, buildings, runways, etc.) which already preclude high-power weapon use in hunting seasons. Mr. Barlow's 'support' was volunteered before about a half dozen DWR officials on a visit to the property earlier this year.

Please review the above responses, together with the written history attached to this letter, and then let us know if you need clarification or need further information to address this concern.

Sincerely,

Brent Poll
Managing Member

Enclosures

Poll Enterprises, LLC

Partners

Glen Poll
Lynn Poll
Brent Poll
Margie Mayfield

(801) 479-3786
(801) 479-6994
(801) 479-3588

7 Dec 2011

Justin Dolling
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
515 East 5300 South
Ogden, Utah 84405

Subject: Use of High-powered Rifles in
Unincorporated Davis County

Dear Mr. Dolling,

Following is information you requested concerning the above subject:

(1) Picture showing most of our property at issue.

(2) Plat map for property #13-029-0032 which covers 30.751 acres.

(3) Plat map for property #13-027-0007 covering 32.17 acres.

(4) Plat map for property #13-031-0002 covering 59.750 acres.

The sum of the three plats totals to 112.671 contiguous acres. Please let me know if you have questions or need more information.

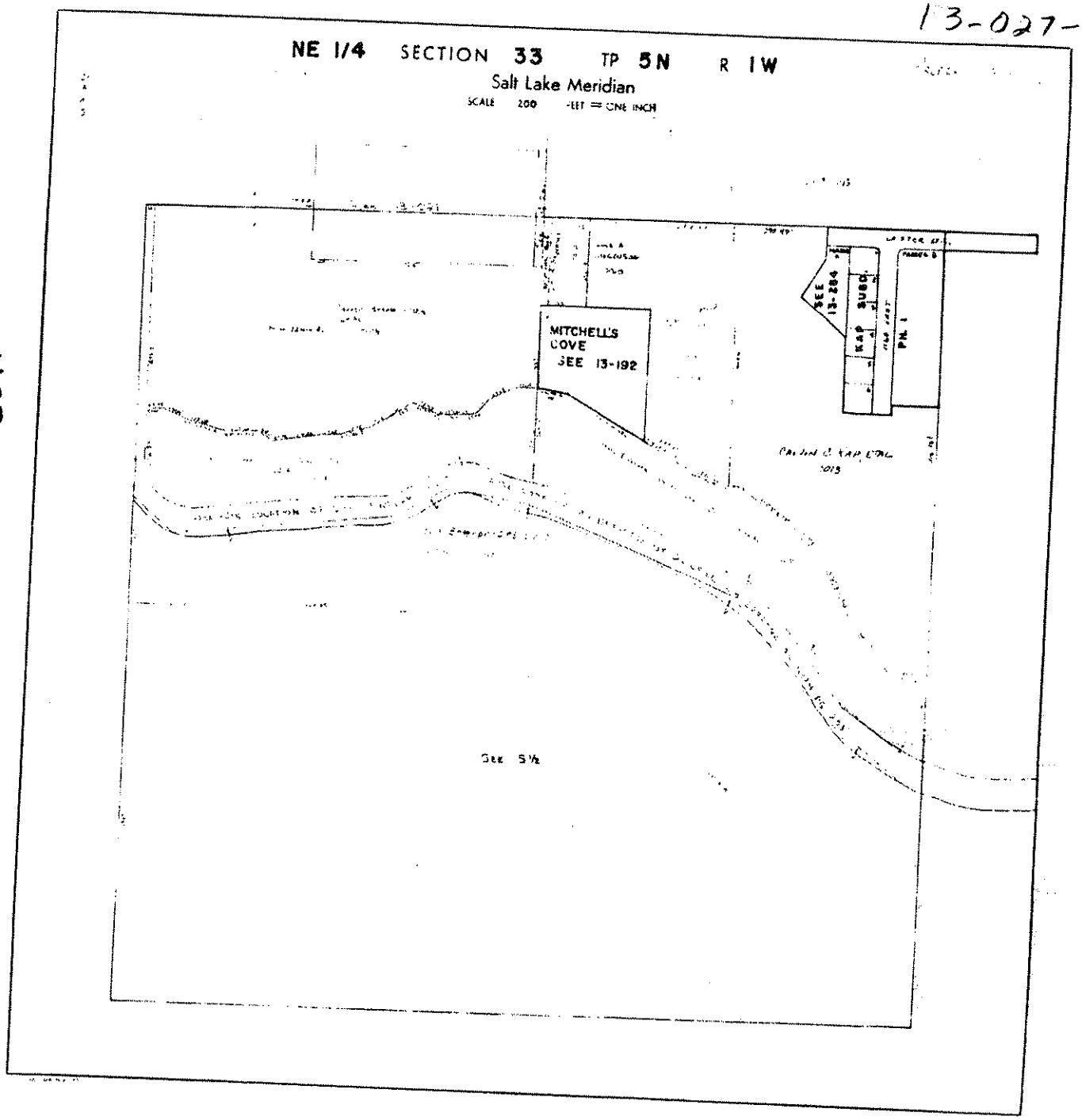
Sincerely,

Brent Poll
Managing Member

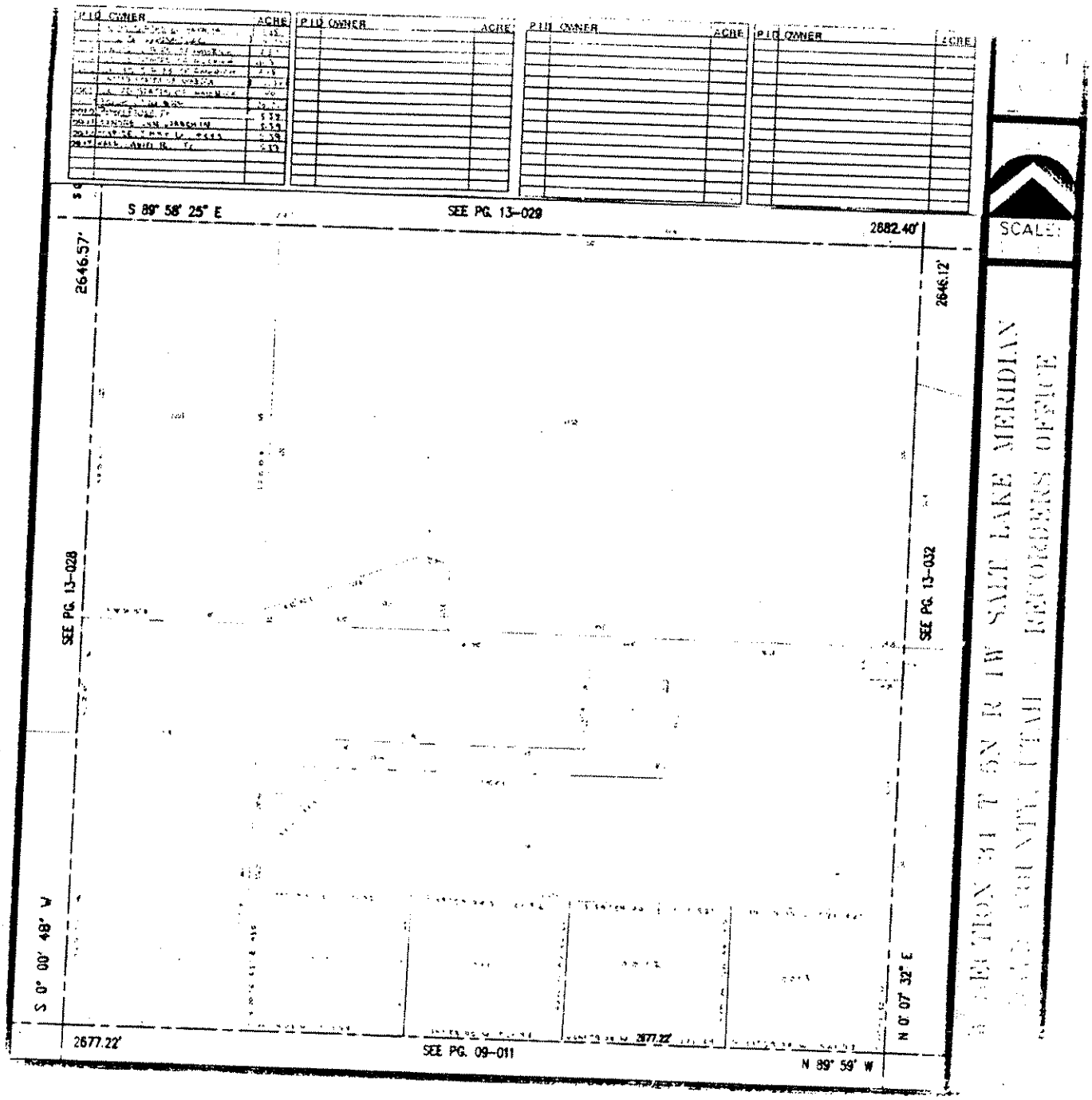
4 enclosures

1375 E. 7605 S. • South Weber, UT • 84405

13-027-0007

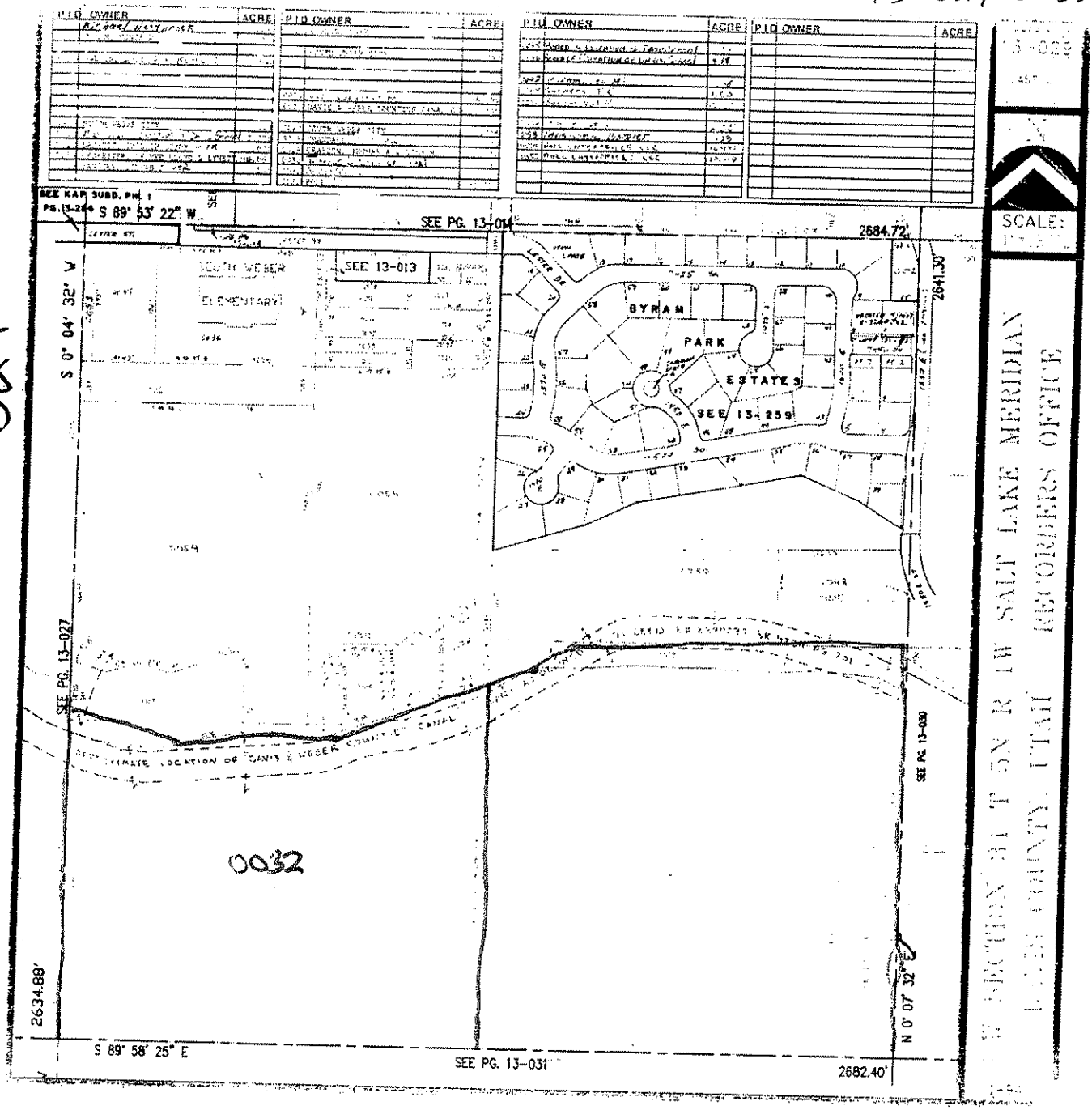

NE 1/4 SECTION 33 TP 5N R 1W
Salt Lake Meridian
SCALE 200 FEET = ONE INCH
MITCHELL'S COVE SEE 13-192
SEE 13-284
See S½

13-031-0002



13 031

13-029-0032



029

13

26 Oct 2011

John Petroff
Davis County Commissioner
Davis County Court House
P.O. Box 618
Farmington, Utah 84025

Subject: Use of High-Power Rifles in Unincorporated Davis County

Dear Commissioner Petroff,

This is a followup to our telephone conversation regarding this subject.

Our family owns about 100 acres of unincorporated Davis County east and north of the Hill Air Force Base golf course and rifle range. This property, in the last 25 years, has attracted a large population of deer which often draws poachers and others to hunt them.

We recently learned your Commission was rescinded a County ordinance which precluded use of high-powered rifles in our part of unincorporated Davis County as the authority to enact such legal restrictions was authorized by the State to cities and towns, but not to Counties. My nephew, Brandon Poll (an attorney employed by Davis County), concurred with the above interpretation of the condition which troubles us. However, as you and I agreed, the South Weber Valley (most of which is in rifle-range of our property) is just too heavily populated now for high-powered rifles to be used in such an uncontrolled manner.

Brandon suggested that the County or our family petition the State to seek legislative relief. We believe others in the County must share our concerns. Therefore, our hope is that your office would elevate this to the State seeking relief for all concerned. Please consider this proposal and let us know if you need assistance from us, or see another means to address this problem.

Sincerely,

Brent Poll
Managing Member

RE: Use of High-powered Rifles in Unincorporated davis County

From: **Justin Dolling** (justindolling@utah.gov)
Sent: Wed 12/07/11 3:25 PM
To: Brent Poll (brent_poll@hotmail.com)

Mr. Poll,

Thank you for the clarification. I look forward to reviewing your letter of request and plat maps for your properties in question. My mailing address is:

Justin Dolling
Utah Division of Wildlife Resource
515 East 5300 South
Ogden, Utah 84405

Take care,

Justin

>>> Brent Poll <brent_poll@hotmail.com> 12/7/2011 2:52 PM >>>
Dear Mr. Dolling,

This property, in unincorporated Davis County affected by our proposal, is mostly bordered by Hill AFB on south side and the Davis and Weber Counties Canal on the north side. Specifically, if you've ever played golf at the Hill AFB course, the bulk of this ground (about sixty acres) is immediately adjacent to the course's parking lot and the rifle range. The Base acquired both those properties from us over 50 years ago. The remainder is along the slope of the hillside, mostly oak trees (to the east) and sage brush (to the west) which sets in kind of bowl area that you see to the southeast when you drive down Adams parkway. Hope this provides the clarification you need.

If you will send me your mailing address, I will also send you a hard copies of our letter to Commissioner Petroff and plat maps of our property above the Canal.

Brent Poll

Date: Mon, 5 Dec 2011 16:42:07 -0700
From: justindolling@utah.gov
To: brent_poll@hotmail.com
CC: rwb62@comcast.net; ernieperkins@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Use of High-powered Rifles in Unincorporated davis County

Dear Mr. Poll,

I am following up as a result of your request forwarded to me by Ernie Perkins. I was hoping I could get a little more information concerning your proposal. Specifically, I would like to know the location of your property. At some point we may need to have you identify the amount of land and location of said land within unincorporated Davis County west of Highway 89 that may be affected by your proposal. A county plat map identifying your parcel for now would be ideal. As background, it would also be helpful if you could send me a copy of your letter to the Davis County Commission requesting their support for your proposal.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Justin Dolling
Regional Supervisor
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
801.476.2745

>>> Ernie Perkins-11/25/2011 1:52 PM >>>
Mr. Brent Poll:

Ernie Perkins here, vice-chair of the Utah Wildlife Board. I apologize for the two day delay in responding to you on your email; my last couple of days were very busy & wanted to think about this a bit before responding. My first inclination was to respond to you advising that I would be glad to work on this as soon as I got a couple of other topics off my hot plate; I'm glad I delayed & thought a bit, as the better response is to forward it to the folks I think you wanted it to go to.

Bill Fenimore & I are on the State Board, which sets policy. The Region folks (Northern Region of DWR & the Northern Region Advisory Council [NRAC]) is where I think you wanted this to go, & is the appropriate office to be looking at it. They are charged with executing (the DWR folks) and advising the Wildlife Board (the duty of the NRAC) on wildlife matters in the Northern Region. Thus, after discussion with them, I am forwarding it to Justin Dolling (the Northern Region Supervisor) & Robert Byrnes (the Northern Region RAC Chair) for their review and action.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.....

Regards,

Ernie Perkins

For Commissioner John Petroff: Good to see you included on this. It's been more than a few years since we worked together on the Davis Chamber Board. I would be glad to meet with you to discuss the topic. Does someone on staff have a county map that shows incorporated vs. unincorporated lands? If so, would you please ask them to send to me.

>>> Brent Poll <brent_poll@hotmail.com> 11/22/2011 8:36 PM >>>
22 Nov 2011

Dear Misters Ernie Perkins and Bill Fenimore,
Regional Wildlife Advisory Committee

We sent a letter last month to Davis County Commissioner, John Petroff, to solicit his assistance in working with the State of Utah regarding the above subject. Part of his recent telephonic response was to suggest that we also seek comparable help through Utah Wildlife Resources. The Commissioner concurred with us that use of such weapons in unincorporated Davis County was now incompatible (especially in the South Weber area) in view of its relatively large and growing population already within rifle range of the few hundred acres in question.

Our family owns about one hundred of those unincorporated acres, and most of us also live (along with thousands of neighbors) within rifle ranges currently allowed. While we love seeing the deer on our and other adjacent properties, their numbers attract hunters/poachers who place all those living nearby needlessly at risk.

We would like the Regional Advisory Committee to study this problem and make a recommendation to State Wildlife Officials to preclude the use of high-powered rifles while hunting west of Highway 89. We strongly believe the safety of the public requires this . The Commissioner promised to continue working with the State to eventually achieve the same result (i.e; State law allows the State and municipalities to limit such weapon usage, but not counties). However, since the County lacks the legislative power to remedy this problem internally, seeking relief through you and Utah Wildlife Resources represents a complimentary and possibly quicker form of remediation.

Please let us know if you have any questions or requirements from us regarding this request.

Brent Poll
Managing Member
Poll Enterprises, LLC

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
JAMES F. KARPOWITZ
Division Director

May 17, 2012

TO: Wildlife Board

FROM: John Fairchild
Central Region Superivisor

SUBJECT: Proposed Hunting Closures in South Jordan

South Jordan City has followed the procedures identified in R657-34 - Procedures for Confirmation of Ordinances on Hunting Closures (attached) and would like to present their proposal to the Wildlife Board at the June 6th meeting. Central Region personnel have met with city officials and have confirmed that due to recent development, continuation of hunting during general seasons constitutes a legitimate public safety concern.

The attached draft includes language that reserves the right of the Wildlife Board to authorize special hunts to control deer numbers. Also attached you will find a series of maps showing areas that is unavailable to hunting for various reasons.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Fairchild at 801-885-8140.

1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110, PO Box 146301, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
telephone (801) 538-4700 • facsimile (801) 538-4709 • TTY (801) 538-7458 • *www.wildlife.utah.gov*

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-12 HUNTING

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING HUNTING WITHIN SOUTH JORDAN CITY LIMITS

WHEREAS, Utah Code Annotated 23-14-1(3)(b) allows a city to close an area to hunting for safety reasons upon approval from the Wildlife Board of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; and

WHEREAS, the South Jordan City Council believes that hunting within South Jordan City corporate limits poses a serious risk to the safety of the residents of South Jordan; and

WHEREAS, the City Code's prohibition on the discharge of firearms within City limits does not include a bow and arrow, slingshot, or any other device designed to propel a projectile of any nature; and

WHEREAS, the City Code's prohibition on hunting in City Parks does not restrict hunting in open spaces and trail areas found throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, South Jordan City has been one of the fastest growing cities in Utah as shown in the 2000 and 2010 census; and

WHEREAS, according to the census the City's population has grown from 7,721 residents in 1980 to 50,418 residents in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the west end of the City which is undeveloped is private property and the owners of that property have expressed to the City that they do not allow hunting on their property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to ensure the safety of its residents and other citizens of Utah that use City open spaces for recreation; and

WHEREAS, the City has held a public hearing and submitted an ordinance to the Wildlife Board for evaluation; and

WHEREAS, the Wildlife Board reviewed and approved the language below; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has found and determined that this Ordinance will support the best interests of the City and promote the public health, safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH JORDAN CITY, UTAH AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Enact.** Chapter 09.08.110 "Hunting" is hereby enacted as follows:

9.08.110: HUNTING:

It is unlawful for any person to hunt any wildlife within the corporate limits of South Jordan City.

A. “Hunt” means to pursue, chase, harass, immobilize, injure or kill any wildlife using any kind of handgun, rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader gun, pellet gun, BB gun, dart gun, blow gun, bow and arrow, crossbow, slingshot, or any other device designed to propel a projectile of any nature.

B. “Wildlife” means: 1) vertebrate animals living in nature; and 2) captive vertebrate animals, including hybrids, belonging to a species that naturally occurs in the wild.

Nothing under this section shall be construed so as to prevent the Division of Wildlife Resources from controlling, maintaining or otherwise managing wildlife in South Jordan City.

Section 2. **Severability.** If any section, part or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable, such unenforceability shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance, and all sections, parts and provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage by the South Jordan City Council and execution of the same by the attested signature of the Mayor of South Jordan City.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH JORDAN CITY, STATE OF UTAH, ON THIS_____DAY OF_____, 2010 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

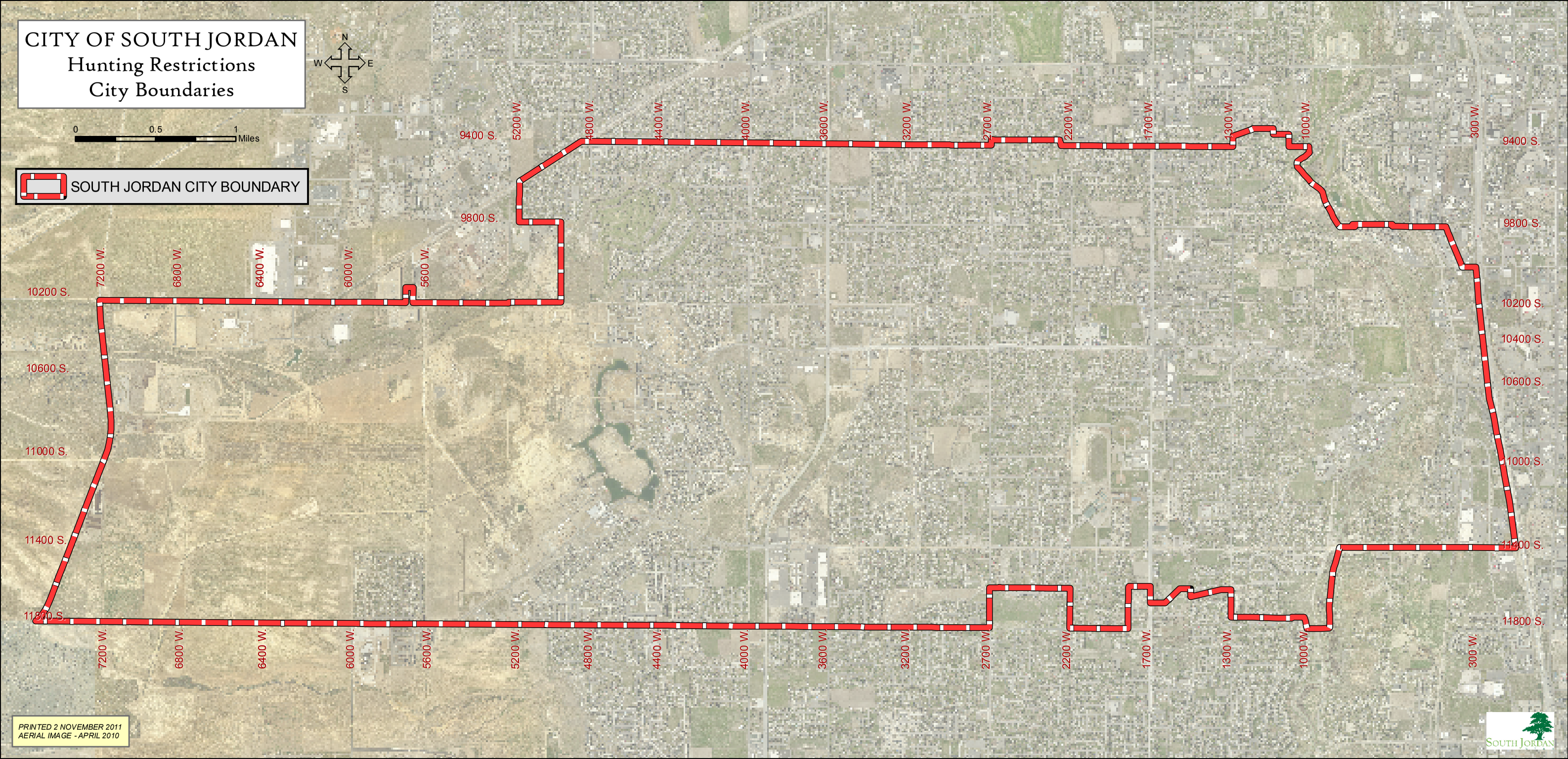
	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Aleta A. Taylor	___	___	____	____
Larry Short	___	___	____	____
Kathie L. Johnson	___	___	____	____
Brian C. Butters	___	___	____	____
Leona Winger	___	___	____	____

Approved as to content: _____
City Manager

Legal Review: _____
Attorney For City

Mayor: _____
W. Kent Money

ATTEST: _____
City Recorder


CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN
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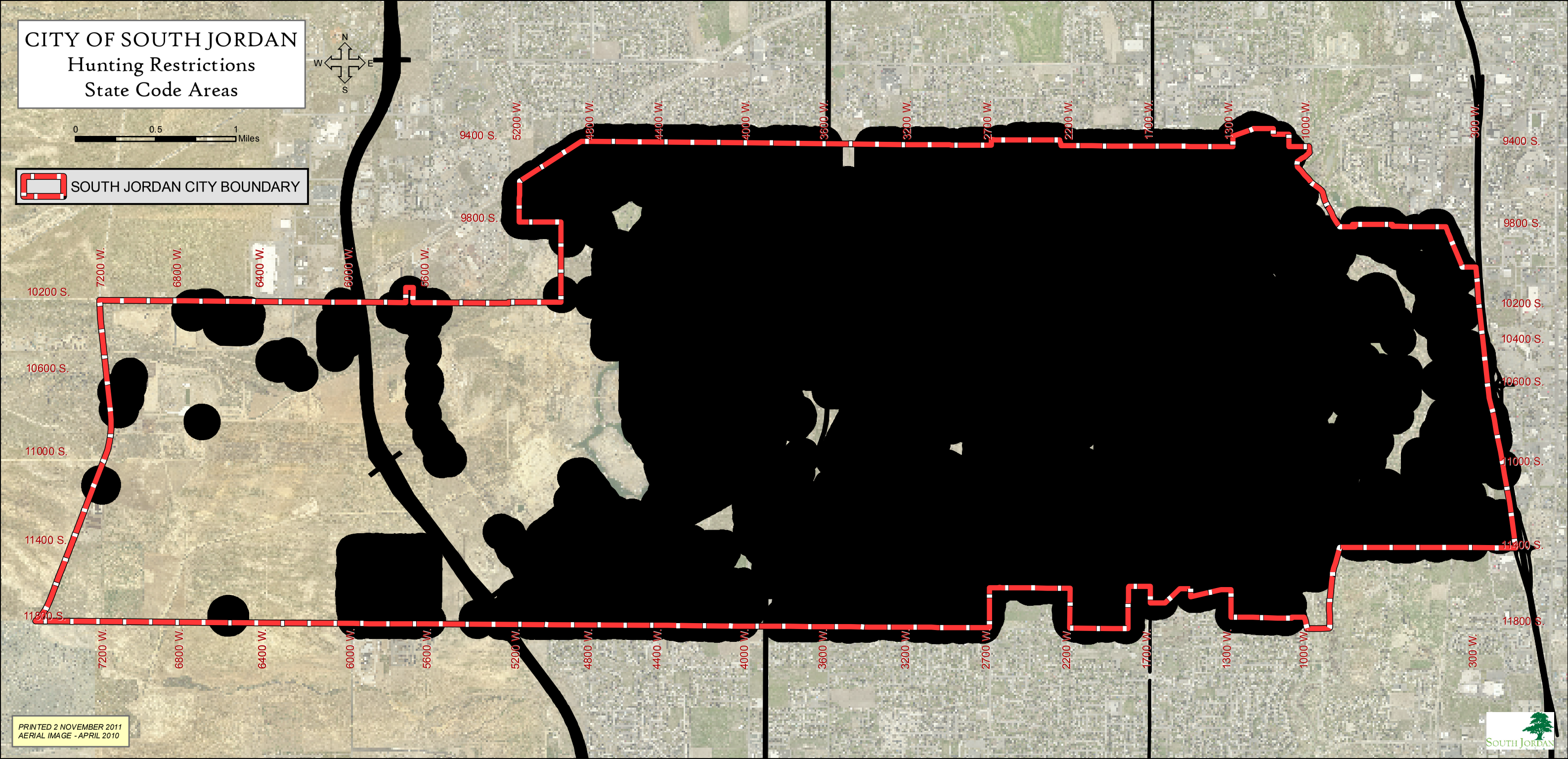
PRINTED 2 NOVEMBER 2011
AERIAL IMAGE - APRIL 2010
SOUTH JORDAN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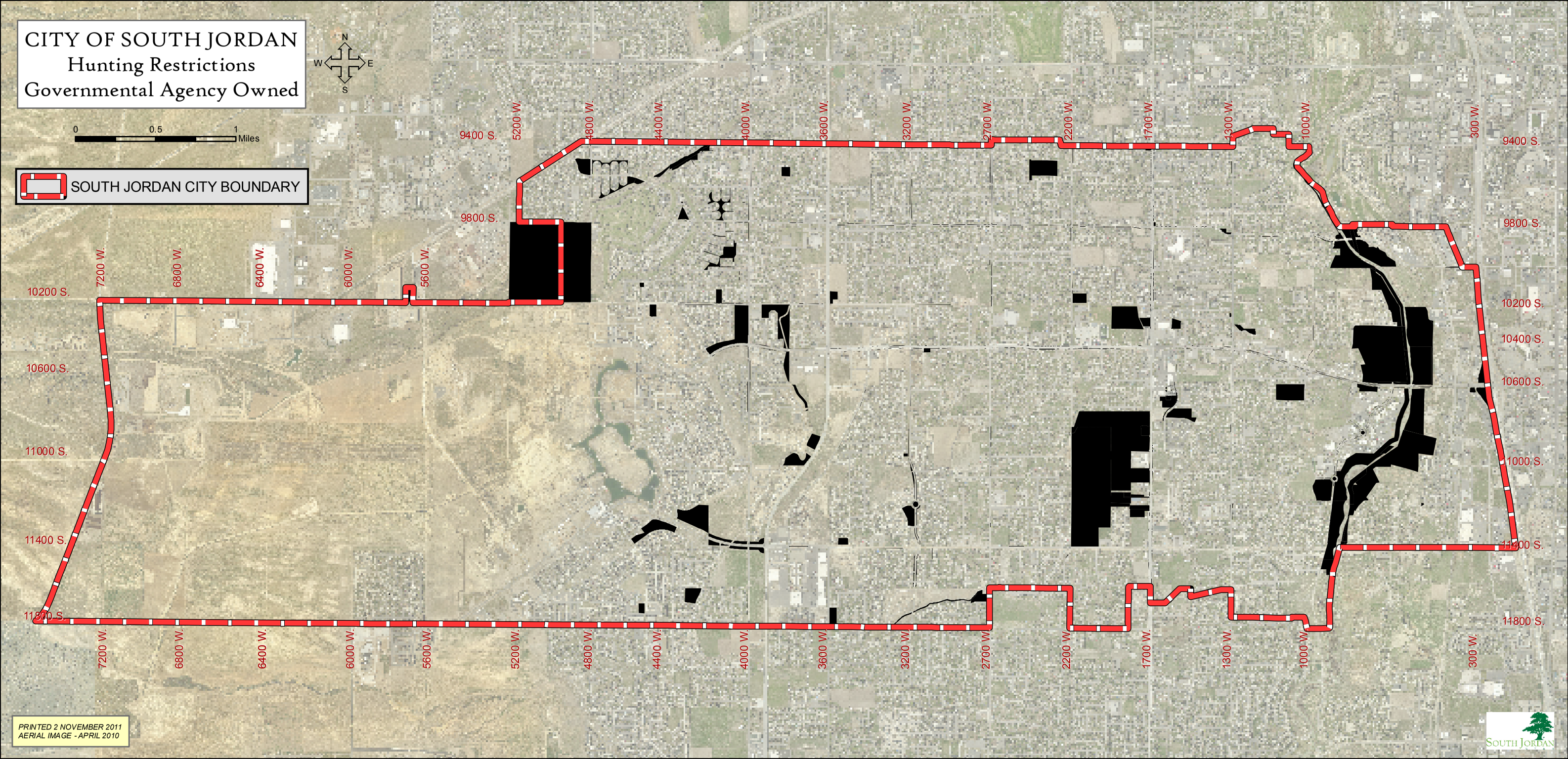
PRINTED 2 NOVEMBER 2011
AERIAL IMAGE - APRIL 2010
SOUTH JORDAN

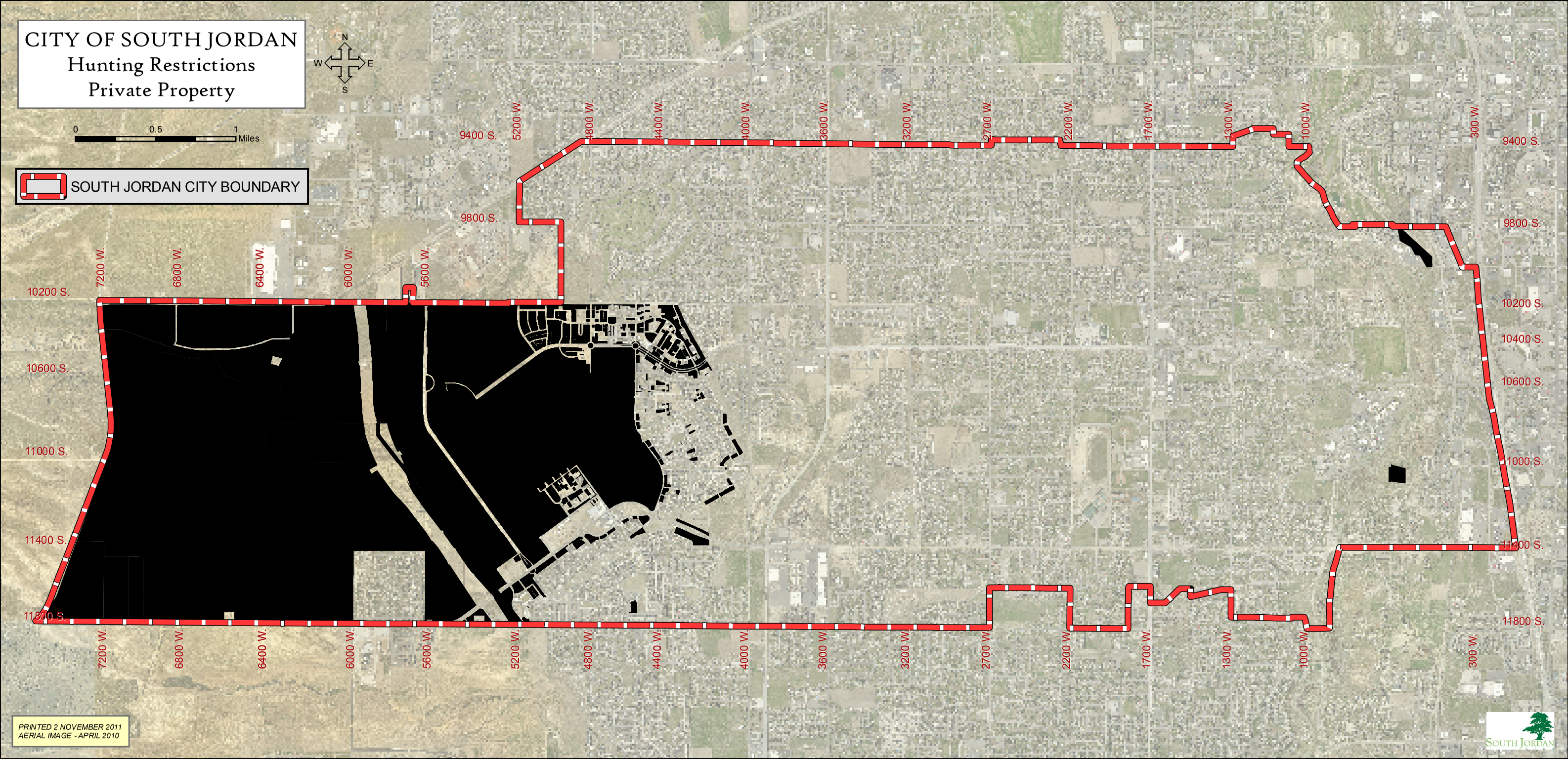
CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN
Hunting Restrictions
Governmental Agency Owned



PRINTED 2 NOVEMBER 2011
AERIAL IMAGE - APRIL 2010

SOUTH JORDAN

CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN
Hunting Restrictions
Private Property



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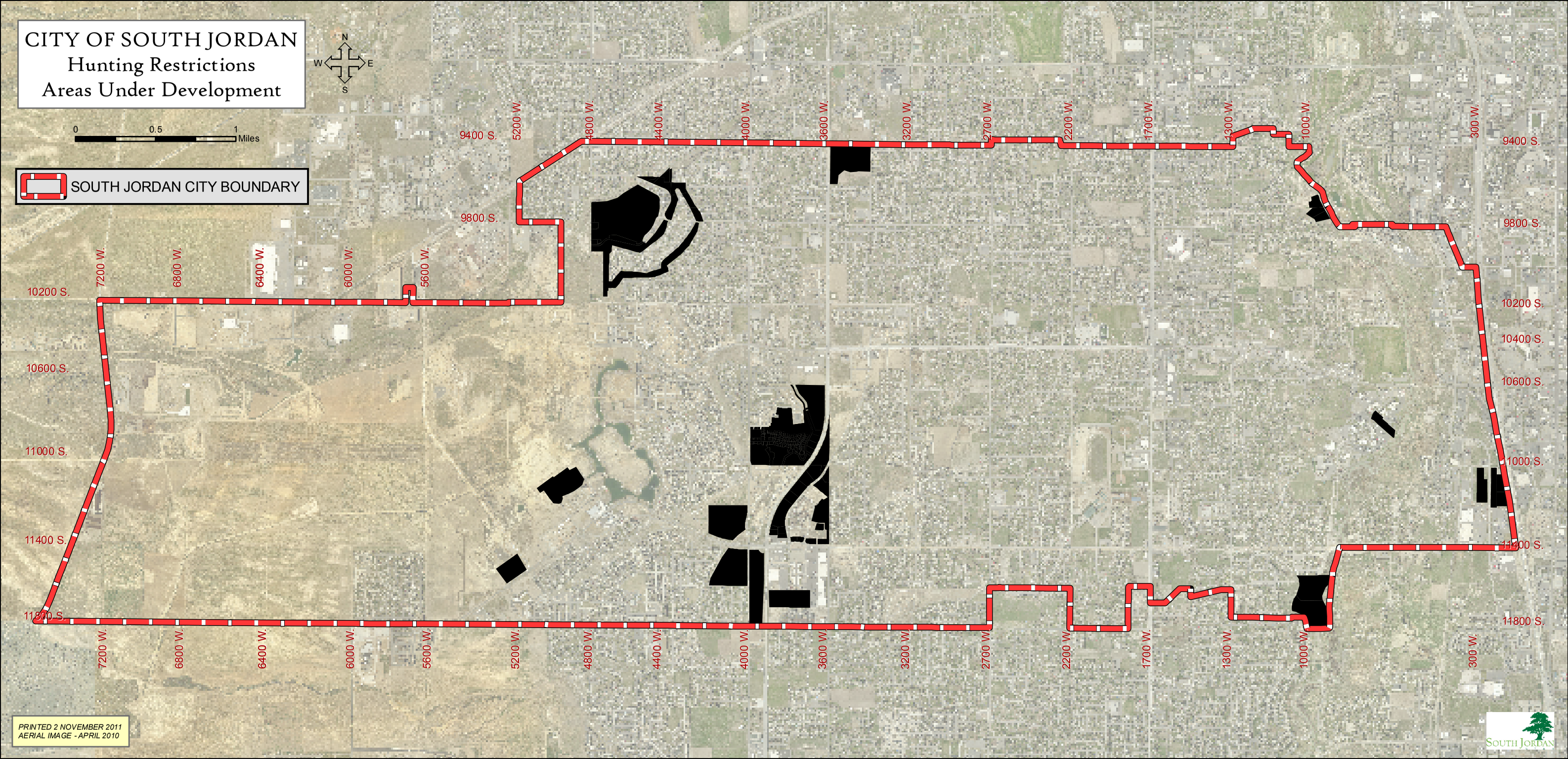
SOUTH JORDAN

CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN
Hunting Restrictions
Areas Under Development



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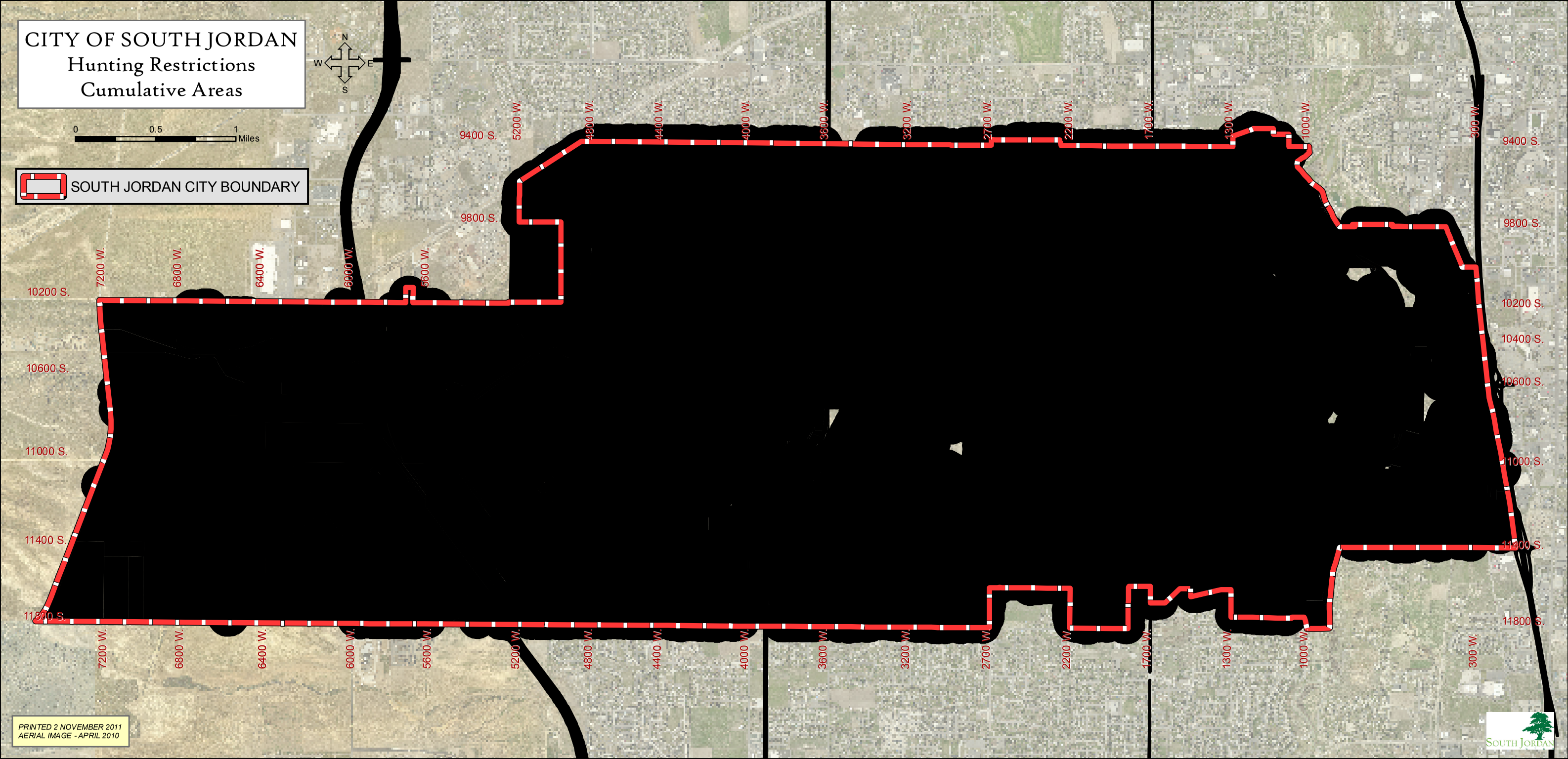
CITY OF SOUTH JORDAN
Hunting Restrictions
Cumulative Areas
N
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1
Miles
SOUTH JORDAN CITY BOUNDARY
9400 S.
9800 S.
10200 S.
10400 S.
10600 S.
11000 S.
11400 S.
11800 S.
7200 W.
6800 W.
6400 W.
6000 W.
5600 W.
5200 W.
4800 W.
4400 W.
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3600 W.
3200 W.
2700 W.
2200 W.
1700 W.
1300 W.
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300 W.
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AERIAL IMAGE - APRIL 2010
SOUTH JORDAN

Conservation Permit Program & Rule (R657-41):

History, Accomplishments, Legislative Audit, and Recommended Changes

Program History

- Began in 1981 with 1 Desert Bighorn Sheep permit that was marketed by the DWR.
- Expanded to a maximum of 1 permit/species through 1994.
- Rapid growth began in 1997.
- 1981-1998 program generated a total of $1.3 million.
- 1999 - 2004 program generated a total of $5.7 million.
- 2005 - 2009 program generated a total of $12.5 million
- 2010-2011 program generated $ 5.3 million
- Since 1981 the program has generated over $25 Million

Regulation History

The Conservation Permit Rule has been modified at least 7 times in the last 13 years. Before each rule change, we have held meetings with the conservation groups either together or individually.

1999
1) The maximum number of area permits was capped at 8.
2) An evaluation formula for past performance was added.
3) Recipient may designate another person for permit if successful in our big game drawing.

2000
1) Money can be used for other than the species that generated it - if DWR and the group agree.
2) Added turkey, cougar and bear statewide conservation permits.

2002
1) One application per conservation organization.
2) Clarified the Wildlife Board can select a recipient other than the high bidder after considering 4 criteria in the rule.
3) Criteria limiting growth was added.
4) Board can authorize a second statewide conservation permit for a special event/purpose.

Regulation History Con't

2003
1) 90% of funds raised must be used on projects that benefit CP species.
2) Auditing and accounting procedures added.
3) Project reporting and approval procedures added.

2006
1) Defined "Conservation Permit Species" (deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, BHS, turkey, cougar, bear).
2) Instituted multi-year conservation permit program and defined procedures.
3) Allowed for 10% of BHS permits as conservation permits.

2007
1) Added that the person identified on the Conservation Permit voucher must have a current Utah hunting or combination license to redeem the voucher for a permit.

2010
1) Added "Special Antelope Island Permits" for Mule Deer and Bighorn Sheep.
   - Must be authorized by the Wildlife Board and the Parks Board.
   - Revenue generated goes to the Division of Parks and Recreation.

2011 Legislative Audit

- The 2011 Legislature requested that the Legislative Auditor conduct an audit of the Conservation Permit program
- The Auditor's conclusion was:

  ".....the sale of conservation permits promotes habitat improvements on public lands with no expense to the taxpayer, while negligibly reducing the public's opportunity to draw a permit for a limited-entry hunting area. We would encourage the Division to continue to support this program."

Accomplishments

- Habitat Projects
  - Contributed to 309 different projects (2006 - 2011)
- Big game transplants (2000-2012)
  - Multiple Bighorn Sheep transplants (561 sheep moved)
  - Multiple Pronghorn Antelope Transplants (350 pronghorn moved)
  - Bison from the Henry Mountain to the Book Cliffs (80 Bison moved)
- Research (Current)
  - Highway mortality (Highway 6 and others - Ongoing)
  - Effects of Predators on Mule Deer (Monroe Mountain Study - Ongoing)
  - Mule Deer Doe & Fawn Survival (Statewide - Ongoing)
  - Moose survival (Beginning 2012)

Recommended Rule Changes

- Allow turkey conservation permit holders to hunt statewide during the general season (over-the-counter) turkey hunt.
- Define that the potential number of multi-year conservation permits is calculated based on the number of public permits issued the year prior to permits being awarded.
- Include tables that define the potential number of multi-year conservation permits available based on the number of public permits available. For example:
  - 11-30 public permits = 1 conservation permit, 31-50 public permits = 2 conservation permits, 51-70 public permits = 3 conservation permits, 71-90 permits = 4 conservation permits, 91-110 public permits = 5 conservation permits, 111-130 = 6 conservation permits, 131-150 public permits = 7 conservation permits and >150 public permits = 8 conservation permits.

Recommended Rule Changes

- Include an option / mechanism for reducing the number of conservation permits for once-in-a-lifetime species if the number of public permits declines during the time period for which multi-year permits were awarded.
- Change the timing when funds are transferred to the Division from conservation organizations for projects to which they have committed funding.
  - Currently the Division invoices the organizations after projects are completed
  - We are recommending that funds be transferred to the Division within 90-days of being committed to simplify accounting.

Thank-you

R657-3 Collection, Importation, Transportation, and Possession of Animals (CIP)

Amendment

Presented by
UDWR Salt Lake Office

What is the CIP?

- Cooperative rule with DWR, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Health
- Purpose:
  - regulate possession of wildlife
  - protect health, welfare and safety of the public
  - protect genetic integrity of wildlife and livestock
- Provides mechanism for DWR to regulate activities for protected wildlife *unrelated* to hunting and sportfishing:
  - governs the issuing of Certificates of Registration (COR) to allow collection, importation, possession, and propagation of protected wildlife
  - defines activities for which a COR is required

CIP Wildlife Classifications

Noncontrolled species
- No detrimental impact
- COR is not required

Controlled species
- Possible detrimental impact
- COR is required

Prohibited species
- Significant detrimental impact
- COR only issued in accordance with CIP rule and federal laws

R-657-3-2
Species Not Covered By This Rule

Add three species
- Cat, *Felis catus*—only recognized domestic breeds
- Dog, *Canis familiaris*—domestic dogs **and hybrids of them**
- Swine (domestic or feral)

R657-3-4
Definitions

- "Domestic" – Added
  - Relates to animals that have been selectively bred through generations…commonly considered domestics
- "Animal" - Revised
  - Includes hybrids between domestic and wild animals
- "Ornamental Fish" – Revised to – Ornamental aquatic animal species
  "Commonly cultured and sold in the aquarium industry"

  Does not include:
  - sport fish
  - baitfish
  - food fish
  - native species
  - prohibited or controlled species
  - Definition also revised in: R657-16-Aquaculture and Fish Stocking and R657-59-Fish Ponds

R657-3-22
Classification and Specific Rules for Crustaceans and Mollusks

Add two species: prohibited
- Pilose crayfish
  - Only native crayfish to Utah
  - Threats from introduced crayfish (2)
- Stygobromus utahensis (amphipod)
  - Endemic cave amphipod, only one location in the Uinta mountains (Duchesne County)
  - Petitioned to list
  - FWS 90 day finding: not substantial


Amphipod

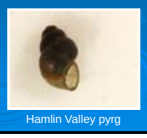
R657-3-22
Classification and Specific Rules for Crustaceans and Mollusks

Clarification

- Floater
  - Listed as "California floater"
  - Change to include all floaters (bivalves) of the Anodonta species


Floater spp.

- Springsnails (pyrgs)
  - Include all springsnails of the Pyrgulopsis genus


Hamlin Valley pyrg

R657-3-22
Classification and Specific Rules for Crustaceans and Mollusks

Add three species

- Southern tightcoil: native terrestrial snail
  - Found only at Clinton's Cave in Tooele County in 1929 (Kennecott Copper Property)
  - Petitioned to list, FWS 90 day finding: "not substantial".
  - Controlled for collection, importation, possession


Western pearlshell

- Western pearlshell: river pearl mussel
  - No observations since 1940's (no surveys conducted)
  - Prohibited for collection, importation, possession


melanoides

- Red-rimmed melania: melanoides
  - Nonnative snail
  - Detrimental impact to native snail species
  - Prohibited for collection, importation, possession

R657-3-22
Classification and Specific Rules for Crustaceans and Mollusks

- New language:

  (3) All native species not listed in Subsection (1) and (2), excluding ornamental aquatic animal species, are classified as controlled for collection, importation and possession.
- New sentence:

  (4) All nonnative species not listed in Subsection (1) and (2), excluding ornamental aquatic animal species, are classified as prohibited for collection, importation and possession.

R657-3-23
Classification and Specific Rules for Fish

Add three species: prohibited

- Blue catfish
- Emerald shiner
- Burbot

Nonnative species with detrimental impacts to native fishes and sportfish populations


Burbot

R657-3-7&24
Classification and Specific Rules for Mammals

- Made the CIP consistent with the non-game mammals rule (R657-19)
  - Except as prohibited in the nongame mammals rule a person is allowed to kill nongame mammals that are causing damage to their property or crops
  - The nongame mammals rule (R657-19) has provisions to protect bats, prairie dogs and other sensitive mammal species
  - CIP regulates the collection and possession of live mammals and the collection of dead mammals for scientific or commercial purposes
- Removed the option to capture and relocate porcupine, striped skunk and squirrels

R657-3-7&21
Classification and Specific Rules for Birds

- A person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to kill Black-billed Magpies,Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, and Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) killed pursuant to this section, including their plumage and other parts, may be retained for noncommercial, personal use.

R657-3-30
Propagation of Raptors

- Updated to reflect recent federal changes to Utah's Falconry Rule (R657-20)
- Formal approval from the division is required to transfer a raptor from a falconry certificate of registration to propagation use that exceeds 8 months in duration.
- A licensed raptor propagator may temporarily possess and use a falconry raptor for propagation without division approval, provided the propagator possesses a signed and dated statement from the falconer authorizing the temporary possession; and a copy of the falconer's original FWS Form 3-186A for that raptor.

R657-3-8
Canada Goose Nest and Egg Registry (Background)

- Created by the USFWS in 2007 to deal with nuisance Canada geese.
- Allows agencies and landowners who register online to destroy C. goose nests and eggs on their property within urban environments from March 1 – June 30.
- Take of adults/goslings is not allowed.
- Must report their activities annually online.
- Amending CIP to allow these activities under State regulations

R657-3-8
Canada Goose Nest and Egg Registry (Justification)

- Canada goose urban nuisance problems and agricultural depredation are extreme in some areas.
- Currently little the state can do to help with problem.
- This program would allow affected landowners to deal with some of the problem.
- Not expected to have any impact on wild population.

QUESTIONS?

Utah Milk Snake

Warbling Vireo

Pygmy Rabbit

Thank you!

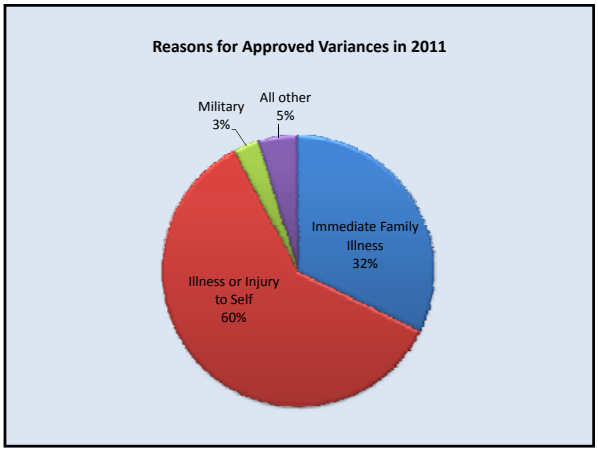
Division of Wildlife Resources

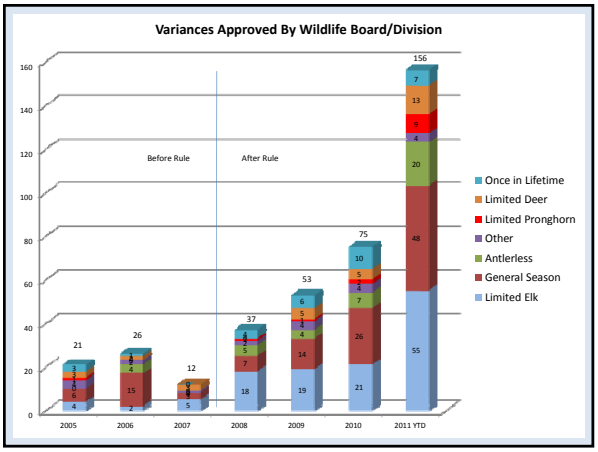
Division Variance Rule R657-57

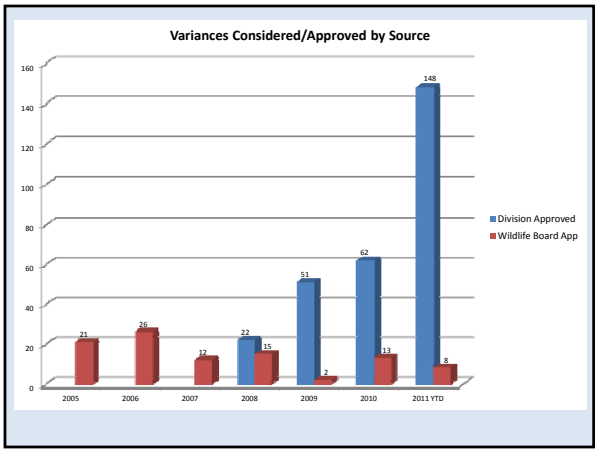
Action Item

History of Variances at DWR

- The Wildlife Board used to hear all requests for variances for injury and illness issues.
- The Wildlife Board approved a rule to establish a (R657-57) Division Variance Committee to address variances for those with injury, family illness, and military activation.
- Requests must be within 200 days of season closure and the person cannot have hunted.
- The Wildlife Board still handles some exceptions that are outside the jurisdiction of the Division Variance Committee criteria.
- Most approved variances result in season extensions that allow the hunter to hunt with their permit the following season.







Basis for Changes in Rule

- The underlying theme of the rule change is to acknowledge that people have unforeseen events in life and to try and make them whole in the best logical manner
- Additionally, it is acknowledged that extending hunts into future years may ultimately have an impact on future hunt recommendations and resources
- Finally, the Division needs to internally minimize the financial impact of making accommodations that will address the needs of the hunters

Variance Relief

The Division *may* grant a *variance* to a person that is *substantially precluded* from hunting because of:

- Person injury or illness
- Death or significant injury or illness of an immediate family or group member
- Military deployment or mobilization

Variance request must be received by Division within *120 days* of season closure or application deadline

No Guarantees

Variances are not guaranteed – both the Division and Wildlife Board have discretion whether to grant a variance.

Substantially Precluded

Substantially precluded means:

- One day or less day hunting in the field.
- Any amount of time spent hunting in a single day is considered a full day.

Variance Types

Variances are limited to:

1. Waiting period waiver
2. Bonus and preference point restoration
3. Season extension

Preference Point Restoration

Hunts eligible for preference point restoration:

- General season deer
- Antlerless deer and elk
- Doe pronghorn
- Swan
- Sage grouse
- Sharp-tailed grouse
- Sandhill crane

Not eligible for a season extension.

Bonus Point Restoration and/or Waiting Period Waiver

Hunts eligible for bonus point restoration and/or waiting period waiver:

- Non-bonus point hunts that incur a waiting period (Sportsman & Convention)
- Once-in-a-lifetime
- Limited entry
- Public CWMU
- Antlerless moose

Not eligible for a season extension.

Season Extensions

Season extensions limited to the following hunts:

- Conservation
- Poaching-reported reward
- Private CWMU (Subject to landowner approval)
- Limited entry landowner

Groups

Group members receive the same variance relief granted by the Division to any single member of the group under the rule, excluding refunds.

Limitations on Board Authority

Board cannot consider or grant a variance:

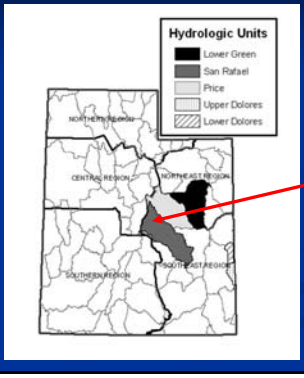
1. Request is received beyond 120 day deadline
2. Applicant hunts more than two days
3. Season extensions on any hunt other than conservation, poaching-reported reward, private CWMU; and limited entry landowner
4. Season extension beyond one year
5. Animal is killed

Thank You

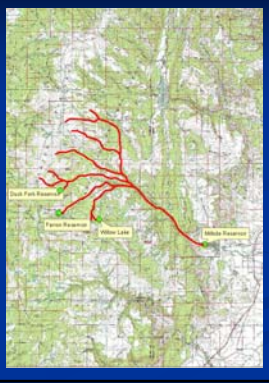
Ferron Drainage CRCT Restoration

Justin Hart
Southeastern Region Aquatic Program Manager

Ferron Drainage Location



Ferron Drainage Location



Ferron Drainage Location

Activities to Date

- Conceptual planning within the SERO

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- Most attractive drainage in Region for CRCT

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- Most attractive drainage in Region for CRCT
  - Duck Fork brood lake (2009 and 2010 ~70,000 eggs, 2011 ~33,000 eggs), have stocked Duck Fork, White River, Millsite Reservoir, and small impoundments in White River drainage

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  - Stream miles – 47

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  - Stream miles – 47
  - Number of lakes - 6
  - Native fish ties (identified by NFWF as top ranking drainage in SE Utah)
  - History of past work

Activities to Date

- Change in stocking at Willow Lake and Wrigley Springs (switched to triploid Rainbow trout in 2007)

Activities to Date

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- Fish barrier at Ferron Reservoir (for future treatment)

Activities to Date

- Spring 2010 set up a CRCT Restoration Planning Team

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  - DWR, USFS, Conservation District, Water Users

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  - To add Cattlemen and Sportsmen

Activities to Date

- Spring 2010 set up a CRCT Restoration Planning Team
  - DWR, USFS, Conservation District, Water Users
  - To add Cattlemen and Sportsmen
  - Identified potential issues: water use, loss of recreation, creation of a CRCT monoculture, grazing issues, etc.

Activities to Date

- Presented project to Emery Public Lands Council (PLC)

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- Went back to Emery PLC for further discussion

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- Finally garnered project support from Emery PLC and Emery County Commissioners

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- Went back to Emery PLC for further discussion
- Held a public meeting in Ferron, UT
- Finally garnered project support from Emery PLC and Emery County Commissioners
- Met with San Pete County Commission

Activities to Date

- Ferron Reservoir Treatment September 21, 2011

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- Ferron Reservoir
  - ~50 acres (drawn down to 35 acres)
  - ~ 2 miles of tributaries

Activities to Date

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- Ferron Reservoir
  - ~50 acres (drawn down to 35 acres)
  - ~ 2 miles of tributaries
- Ferron Reservoir contains diploid rainbows, non native cutthroat trout, and brook trout

Activities to Date

- 11 drip stations
- Low stream velocities < 2 cfs
- < 5 gal rotenone

Activities to Date

- ~520 lbs rotenone
- Application took ~1 h
- Another treatment will occur June 2012
- Triploid rainbows and CRCT stocked by July 4, 2012

Future Plans

Future Plans

- Logistics of treating in sections

Future Plans

- Logistics of treating in sections
- Temporary barriers, access, NEPA

Future Plans

- Logistics of treating in sections
- Temporary barriers, access, NEPA
- Bluehead sucker in Millsite, need for large barrier

Summary

- We would like support for the reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout into the Ferron Creek Drainage.

Summary

- We would like support for the reintroduction of Colorado River cutthroat trout into the Ferron Creek Drainage.
- Sport fishing and conservation goals would be met.

Questions?