Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

August 28, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, August 28, 2014 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
   – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
   – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
   – Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair

4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**
   – Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director

5. Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2016 **ACTION**
   - Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

6. Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations **ACTION**
   - Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

7. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations **ACTION**
   - Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

8. Turkey Depredation Rule- New Rule R657-69 **ACTION**
   - Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

9. Additional Turkey Transplant Sites **ACTION**
   - Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

10. Monroe Mtn. Aspen Restoration – Letter of Support **ACTION**
    - Jason Kling, Forest Service

11. CR Deer Management Plans **ACTION**
    - Covy Jones, Regional Big Game Coordinator

12. Antlerless Elk Permit Re-evaluation **INFORMATION**
    - Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief

13. Convention Permit Audit **ACTION**
    - Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

14. Convention Permit Allocation **ACTION**
    - Mike Fowlks, Deputy Director

15. CRC – Recommendation **ACTION**
    - Staci Coons, CRC Chair

16. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
    – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

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

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 2013 – Target Date – Preference Point Presentation

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to give a presentation on the preference point system relative to the new 30 unit deer plan.

Assigned to: Judi Tutorow / Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: Recommendation will go to the RAC/Board during the November/December Tour
Placed on Action Log: June 6, 2012

Late 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: Bill Bates/Judi Tutorow
Action: Under Study
Status: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
Placed on Action Log: May 3, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Mineral Mountain Range

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to study the issues and concerns of making the Mineral Mountain Range (west side of Beaver unit) a limited entry buck deer unit and that it be discussed during the revision of the deer plan with the Deer Management Committee. This is to be placed on the action log.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
Placed on Action Log: December 6, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Additional muzzleloader Pronghorn hunting opportunity

MOTION I move that we ask the division to study additional muzzleloader pronghorn hunting opportunity as presented in the November RAC meetings by Mr. Zundel. This is to be placed on the action log.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: To be addressed with hunt recommendations in November 2014
Placed on Action Log: December 6, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Non-Resident Sheep Permit Quota

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to prepare a sheet for the Board and the NRO RAC that shows the sheep unit grouping and permit percentage rules that were passed (by the board) last year – and subsequent total permits and breakout between OIAL, conservation and convention permits, for each sheep species and each unit group.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 2, 2013

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Fish Surveys (2 motions)

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to place on the action log the two questions from the SRO RAC concerning the next fisheries survey, and that both questions be included in the next survey.

Question 1 – To include in the next fisheries survey a question regarding instating an 8 fish limit statewide.
Question 2 – To include in the next fisheries survey a question regarding the taking of catch and kill species by spear fishermen in all waters where it applies.

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to place on the next survey questions concerning the 3-day possession limit and processed fish in order to obtain public input.
Assigned to: Drew Cushing
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: November 7, 2013

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: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
Placed on Action Log: December 1, 2011

Fall 2014 – Target Date – Goat Seasons

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

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
Placed on Action Log: December 5, 2013

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 5, 2014, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

Thursday, June 5, 2014 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
   – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
   – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
   – Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair

4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**
   – Greg Sheehan, DWR Director

5. Turkey Management Plan **ACTION**
   – Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

6. Turkey Transplant Proposed List **ACTION**
   – Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

7. Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations **ACTION**
   – Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

8. R657-46 – Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment **ACTION**
   – Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

9. Waterfowl Recommendations **ACTION**
   – Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

10. Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68 **ACTION**
    – Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator

11. Certification Review Committee - Recommendations **ACTION**
    – Staci Coons, CRC Chairman

12. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
    – Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 5, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Turkey Management Plan **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented by the Division.

4) Turkey Transplant Proposed List **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division with the inclusion of the six sites that the Southern Region proposed: Marysvale Canyon, Birchville, City Creek, Mammoth Creek, upper stretches of the Sevier, and Minersville and Coal Creek.

5) Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-yr Recommendations **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-year Recommendations as presented by the Division.

6) R657-46 – Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the amendment for Rule R657-46 – Use of Game Birds as presented by the Division.

7) Waterfowl Recommendations **(Action)**

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and Bill Fenimore opposed.

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

8) Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68 **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Trial Hunter Program Rule R657-68 as presented.

9) Certification Review Committee - Recommendations **(Action)**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the variance request for John Potash.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the COR amendment request made by Tim Rowberry.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 5, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/14-6-5.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present
Jake Albrecht – Chair
Bill Fenimore – Vice-Chair
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec
Mike King
Calvin Crandall
John Bair
Kirk Woodward
Steve Dalton

RAC Chairs Present
Central – Gary Nielson
Southern – Dave Black
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht
Northeastern - Wayne McCallister
Northern – Robert Byrnes

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks	Avery Cook	Eric Ellis
Rory Reynolds	Chris Wood	John Fairchild
Mike Canning	Kenny Johnson	Kirk Poulsen
Staci Coons	Robin Cahoon	Russ Norvell
Thu Vo-Wood	Dean Mitchell	Mike Styler
Blair Stringham	Gary Cook	Robyn Pearson
Tony Wood	Covy Jones	Dave Lee
Marty Bushman	Bill Bates	Bruce Johnson
Jason Robinson	Greg Hansen	Dax Mangus
Justin Shannon	Kevin Bunnell	Randy Wood
Boyde Blackwell	Lindy Varney	Karen Caldwell
Debbie Marchese	Mark Hadley	Justin Dolling
	Judi Tutorow	Phil Gray

Franz Guller	Deedee O'Brien
Susan Snyder	Roy Smith
James Gaskill	Pam Petty
Margaret Wayne	Heather Dove
Ernie Perkins	Martha Harp
Angela Mueller	Elisa Nelson
Jan Ellen Burton	Carolina Roa
Cam Vogel	Bryant Olsen
Matthew Walker	Jan Dummer
Leisa Nelson	Nancy Matro
Ken Strong	Troy Justensen
Sharon St. Joan	

Public Present
Byron Bateman, SFW
Mike Linnell, USDA, FWS
Lynn Worwood, NWTF
Rick Brittain, NWTF
Buz Marthaler, Wildlife Rehab Ctr of Northern UT
Debbie Pappas, 2nd Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation
Allison Leavitt, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue
Hailey Peatross, Great Basin Wildlife Rescue
Bob Brister, Wild Earth Guardians
Wayne Whaley, UT County Birders
Caleb Stroh, Utah Falconers Association, Chukar Foundation

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

1) Approval of Agenda **(Action) 00:02:09 – 00:02:19 of 05:44:02**

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

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

2) Approval of Minutes **(Action) 00:02:21 – 00:02:52 of 05:44:02**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log **(Contingent) 00:02:54 – 00:14:45 of 05:44:02**

Lindy Varney presented the Preference Points system. Jason Robinson addressed the turkey action log items in the agenda.

4) DWR Update **(Informational) 00:14:47 – 00:24:54 of 05:44:02**

Greg Sheehan thanked the aquatics biologists and hatchery personnel for their hard work to kick off the summer fishing season.

Greg mentioned the 2014 Governor's award recipients: Ben Wolford, TJ Robertson, J Shirley, and Dennis Shumway.

DWR is hosting the first Outdoor Adventure Day at Lee Kay on Father's Day weekend. There are many wildlife activities available: fishing, shooting, archery, birding, dog training, ATV trail, calling seminars.

Kevin Bunnell updated the Board on the drought situation in southern Utah.

Greg Sheehan acknowledged the folks in the audience who were involved in the Salem Fishing Day event.

Jake Albrecht explained the Board procedure for today.

5) Turkey Management Plan **(Action) 00:26:45 – 00:46:16 of 05:44:02**

Jason Robinson presented the Turkey Management Plan.

Board Questions 00:33:03 – 00:34:51

Calvin Crandall asked for clarification on complaints submitted to the Department of Agriculture. Steve Dalton wanted to know what the plan for increase of turkey habitat would comprise.

Public Questions 00:34:57 – 00:35:53

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 00:35:54 – 00:37:00

The Turkey Management Plan passed unanimously at all RACs except Northern RAC, which passed it 9 to 2.

Public Comments 00:37:21 – 00:43:02

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 00:43:05 – 00:46:16

Calvin Crandall wanted to know what the turkey population estimate was in the state and wanted clarification on the turkey permit increase.

Bill Fenimore and Greg Sheehan commended the committee for their dedication and hard work.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented by the Division.

6) Turkey Transplant Proposed List **(Action) 00:47:00 – 01:02:53 of 05:44:02**

Jason Robinson presented the proposed list for turkey transplant.

Board Questions 00:50:34 – 00:054:00

Jake Albrecht asked for clarification on the RDCC process. Mike King wanted to understand why the last four sites were excluded from the list. Kirk Woodward wanted to know the interaction between the Rio Grand and Merriam turkeys.

RAC Recommendation 00:54:15 – 00:55:38 (no audio between 00:56:00-00:56:09)

Southeast, Northeast, and Central RAC unanimously approved the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented. Southern RAC unanimously passed the proposed list with additional transplant sites.

Northern RAC passed it 10:1 excluding units listed in the Central region but located in the northern region.

Public Comments 00:56:10 – 00:56:40

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 00:56:40 – 01:02:53

Jake Albrecht summarized the RAC's motions. Requesting additional sites through the RDCC process would not guarantee that they would get transplants at those sites, but it would be given consideration. There was concern about increased human conflict with the expansion of turkey sites.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division with the inclusion of the six sites that the Southern Region proposed: Marysvale Canyon, Birchville, City Creek, Mammoth Creek, upper stretches of the Sevier, and Minersville and Coal Creek.

7) Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-yr Recommendations **(Action) 01:03:03 – 01:55:49 of 05:44:02**

Jason Robinson presented the recommendations for Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-year recommendations.

Board Questions 01:19:38 – 01:23:32

Questions were posed on falconry turkey hunts, private landowner hunts, turkey permits, and the purpose of the extended youth hunt.

Public Questions 01:23:41 – 01:24:16

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 01:24:20 – 01:27:48

Central and Northeast RACs unanimously approved the Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-yr recommendations as presented.

Northern RAC passed the recommendation 10:2 with exception of the turkey limited entry season and establishing the turkey general season throughout the overall recommended framework. They amended the motion to allow youth hunt. That passed 10:2.

Southern RAC also approved the recommendation unanimously; however, they added an amendment to extend the youth turkey hunt which passed 7 to 2.

Southeast RAC passed it unanimously as long as there would be only one turkey permit per hunter per year. Mike King asked for clarification on the opposition of the number of turkey permits.

Public Comments 01:27:56 – 01:34:30

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 01:34:332 – 01:55:49

Board discussed the youth hunt extension, adding crows to the migratory list, and limited entry and over the counter turkey permits.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Upland Game, Turkey, and Crane 3-yr Recommendations as presented by the Division.

8) R657-46 – Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment **(Action) 01:57:20 – 02:02:55 of 05:44:02**

Jason Robinson presented the amendment for rule R657-46.

RAC Recommendations 01:58:51 – 01:59:34

All RAC unanimously accepted the amendment to Rule R657-46 Use of Game Birds.

Public Comments 01:59:36 – 02:01:46

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 02:01:49 – 02:02:55

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the amendment for Rule R657-46 – Use of Game Birds as presented by the Division.

9) Waterfowl Recommendations **(Action) 02:02:56 – 05:03:50 of 05:44:02**

Blair Stringham presented the Waterfowl recommendations.

Board Questions 02:19:25 – 02:44:20

There were some questions about sandhill crane and depredation permits – how many permits can be issued, who is involved in the decision process, how areas are determined for hunts.

The Board focused their questions on crows and the necessity for hunting them. Mike Linnell representing the USDA, Fish and Wildlife Service addressed some of the reports and development of the issue.

Public Questions 02:44:26 – 03:12:02

Public questions were taken at this time.

Jake Albrecht excused Calvin Crandall for the rest of the afternoon when the meeting reconvened after lunch.

RAC Recommendations 03:13:08 – 03:26:32

Central, Southeast, and Southern RACs passed the Waterfowl Recommendations with varying dissent. Southern RAC stipulated that the crow season dates in their region begin November 1 with no split season dates.

Northeast RAC unanimously approved the Waterfowl Recommendations.

Northern RAC had five motions, two of which passed unanimously – R657-3 and Waterfowl Recommendations with the exclusion of crows. The crow hunt failed to pass, and it was recommended that Wildlife Board enact a falconry hunt for the crow.

Martin Bushman clarified the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and federal regulations on crow depredation.

Greg Sheehan commented on the open process and the willingness of the Division to work with all groups, agencies, and individuals who are concerned about Utah's wildlife.

Public Comments 03:26:34 – 04:32:07

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 04:32:08 – 05:03:50

Jake Albrecht summarized the RAC motions and the public comments.

John Bair wanted clarification on crow depredation (R657-3) since there is no federal regulation in place. USDA does not have an active program to address crow issues and is only an advisory agent to the Division.

Mike King delved into the enforcement of bird identification and the impact of the Division's funding and law enforcement workload.

Steve Dalton wondered if allowing this to pass would give the Division a chance to track the population and gather better data.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and Bill Fenimore opposed.

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

10) Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68 **(Action) 05:03:55 – 05:28:24 of 05:44:02**

Gary Cook presented new rule R657-68 – Utah Trial Hunter Program.

Board Questions 05:17:57 – 05:19:58

Jake Albrecht wanted to make clear that the legislature passed SB165 – Utah Trial Hunter Program and directed the Division to set the parameters of the rule.

Greg Sheehan asked for clarification on language concerning conservation permits and CWMUs in the program; he also asked about parental permission.

RAC Recommendations 05:20:10 – 05:25:41

Utah Trial Hunter Program failed to pass in the Southeast RAC.

All the other RACs passed the program as presented, except Southern RAC requested a minimum age requirement of 18 for participants.

Public Comments 05:25:46 – 05:27:50

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 05:27:51 – 05:29:28

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Trial Hunter Program Rule R657-68 as presented.

11) CRC Review Committee - Recommendations **(Action) 05:29:34 – 05:42:55 of 05:44:02**

Staci Coons presented the CRC Committee recommendations.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the variance request for John Potash.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the COR amendment request made by Tim Rowberry.

Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting
July/August

TURKEY DEPREDATION RULE R657-69

SRO, SERO, NERO, CRO

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Depredation Rule R657-69 as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous

NRO - **MOTION:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Rule R657-69 as presented with the addition that buffer zones would exclude public lands.
VOTE: Passes Unanimous

PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FY 2016

SRO - **MOTION:** To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule as presented with the exception that the fee for bobcat tags be determined based on the actual cost of the bobcat program but not to exceed $15.
VOTE: 7 in favor : 1 opposed

SERO - **MOTION:** To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented, except that the bobcat tag fee be based on the cost of the program. The fee will be the lesser of $15 or the cost of program administration.
VOTE: Passed with one opposing vote

NERO - **MOTION:** To go with the fee schedule as presented except with bobcat tags to go with a $10 fee.
VOTE: Passed 6 to 1 with 1 abstention

CRO - **MOTION:** To increase the resident bobcat fee to $10 and the nonresident ewe fee to the same as the nonresident ram fee and accept the balance of the fee proposals
VOTE: Passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

NRO - **MOTION:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented.
VOTE: Passes Unanimous

COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS AND 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS

SRO, NRO

MOTION: To accept Cougar Management Plan Revisions and Recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous

SERO - **MOTION:** To accept Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations as presented with the caveat that the harvest of female cougars be accounted for in the quota for all units, and that the harvest of females comprise no more than 40% of the harvest in all units including predator management plan units (but excluding limited entry areas and bighorn sheep areas), and require GPS locations on harvest data.
VOTE: Passed with one opposing vote

NERO - **MOTION:** Move to go with cougar management recommendations as presented, other than we need a 30% female sub quota.
AMENDED MOTION: Move to amend the motion with a 40% female sub quota
VOTE: Passed 7-1

CRO - **MOTION:** To accept the plan as proposed by the Division
VOTE: Passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS

SRO - **MOTION:** To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat harvest recommendations as presented by the Division with the exception that the bobcat season be extended by one week at the end of season.
VOTE: 5 in favor : 3 opposed

SERO - **MOTION:** To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Passed with one opposing vote

NERO - **MOTION:** To approve as presented, with an extension of one week at the end, with the idea that we analyze it after one year to see if it has affected it.
VOTE: Passes with 7 in favor and 1 abstention

CRO - **MOTION:** To accept the furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations as presented with an amendment that two weeks be added to the end of the season
VOTE: Passed 9 to 2

NRO - **MOTION:** To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
VOTE: Passes unanimous

ADDITIONAL TURKEY TRANSPLANT SITES

SRO - **MOTION:** To accept the additional turkey transplant sites as presented by the Division with the correction of Birch Creek which had been listed as Birchville.
VOTE: Unanimous

MONROE MTN ASPEN RESTORATION

SRO - **MOTION:** To support the aspen restoration plan letter as presented by the Forest Service
VOTE: Unanimous

CRO DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS

CRO - **MOTION:** To accept the proposal as presented by the Division
VOTE: Passed unanimously

Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
July 29, 2014
7:00 p.m.

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. TURKEY DEPREDATION RULE R657-69

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Depredation Rule R657-69 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FY 2016

MOTION: To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule as presented with the exception that the fee for bobcat tags be determined based on the actual cost of the bobcat program but not to exceed $15.

VOTE: 7 in favor: 1 opposed (Clair Woodbury opposed)

4. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS AND 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept Cougar Management Plan Revisions and Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

5. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat harvest recommendations as presented by the Division with the exception that the bobcat season be extended by one week at the end of season.

VOTE: 5 in favor : 3 opposed (Brian Johnson, Sean Kelly, Clair Woodbury opposed)

6. ADDITIONAL TURKEY TRANSPLANT SITES

MOTION: To accept the additional turkey transplant sites as presented by the Division with the correction of Birch Creek, which had been listed as Birchville.

VOTE: Unanimous

7. MONROE MTN ASPEN RESTORATION

MOTION: To support the aspen restoration plan letter as presented by the Forest Service

VOTE: Unanimous

Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
July 29, 2014
7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dale Bagley Layne Torgerson Sam Carpenter Cordell Pearson Dave Black Clair Woodbury Rusty Aiken Sean Kelly Brian Johnson	Kevin Bunnell Giani Julander Lynn Chamberlain Teresa Griffin Riley Peck Vance Mumford Jim Lamb Josh Pollock Jason Robinson Bill Bates Micah Evans Scott Dalebout		Harry Barber Mike Staheli Mike Worthen Mack Morrell

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 24 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

David Black: Okay, we'd like to get started. We'd like to welcome you tonight to the Southern Region RAC. My name's Dave Black. I'm the chairman of the RAC committee from St. George, raised in Panguitch, and represent at-large. We'd like to introduce the rest of the RAC tonight. Let's start down here on my far left with Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I represent the pubic at-large.

Cordell Pearson: I'm Cordell Pearson from Circleville and I represent the public at-large.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield, sportsman's representative.

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

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City, agriculture.

Kevin Bunnell: I'm Kevin Bunnell. I'm the regional supervisor for the Southern Region and act as the executive secretary for this, the RAC.

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly, Forest Service representative.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson, non-consumptives.

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

Dave Black: Thank you. Before we get started I'd like to go through the meeting order, just real quick. I'm sure you guys have been to a RAC meeting before, but if you haven't, as we go through each of these action items we will first hear a presentation from the DWR. And then following the presentation we'll provide an opportunity for the RAC committee to ask any questions. And then we'll open up questions to the public. Now you'll have two opportunities to come to the mic, and the first opportunity is just for questions, if you need a clarification or you have a specific question. If you have a comment, an opinion, a proposal that will come later when we get to the comment section. And in order to come to the mic with the comment you need to fill out a comment card, give it to a DWR representative and they'll bring it up here. And then we'll go through the cards and call you up at that time. Okay, good. Yeah, we'll get the cards out. And so you don't need a card for a question but we would like you to at that time keep your comments as a question. And then when we get to the comment section then you'll have an opportunity to come forward. I assume that we have a representative here from the Utah Houndsmen's Association, is that correct? We received a letter. Is there somebody that's going to read this letter to us today? Or I'm just wondering how to get that into the minutes. Is somebody prepared to do that? Okay, great. So I'll have a copy of that for Giani if she needs that as well.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Dave Black: The first action item is we need to have a motion to accept the agenda and the minutes for this evening. Okay, Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I noticed in reading through the minutes that some of the people that didn't attend, RAC members, one was excused, the others weren't. I wondered what constitutes excused. I know I notified Kevin and you by e-mail that I wouldn't be there.

Dave Black: Was you excused?

Sam Carpenter: No I was not excused. I was wondering, I had one of the Board members call me and how many meetings have you missed? And I said, no that's, I've missed a couple in eight years. But I just wondered what constitutes getting excused for those.

Kevin Bunnell: Probably me remembering who contacted me and excusing them. So . . .

Sam Carpenter: I'll make the motion that we accept the minutes.

Cordell Pearson: I'll second.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Sam and a second from Cordell. All in favor? Okay that

passes unanimous.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as printed. Cordell Pearson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Board Update:
-David Black, Chairman

Dave Black: Okay, the next item on the agenda is a Wildlife Board update. At the last Wildlife Board there was several action items. The first one was the Turkey Management Plan and that, the motion to accept that plan as presented was approved. The next item was the Turkey Transplant Proposed List and there was a motion also to approve that as presented and that was approved. However, there was also some comment in our RAC meeting here, we had proposed a number of additional sites. And they recognized those sites for transplant. They're going to, if I understand it correctly, they have to send it back through a process and then those would come forth to us again. Those may come tonight and so we'll get a chance to vote on those to get those on the list. So they did recognize each of those areas that we'd recommended and had discussion on those. So we'll hear more this evening.

Kevin Bunnell: Just to clarify that. When the, there's a process, um, that we call RDCC, it's a kind of a clearinghouse that gives all of the local governments and federal agencies and other organizations, government organizations, an opportunity to comment on things that we're proposing as the Division of Wildlife. So since those sites hadn't been through that RDCC process that's what we had to redo and so those have gone back out to the counties that were involved and we didn't get any negative comments so that should sail through smoothly tonight. But that was the only reason the Board didn't do it at the time is we had to go back through that process and allow local governments an opportunity to comment.

Dave Black: The next item was the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane, 3-Year Recommendations. There was a motion to accept that plan as presented, which passed. And then we got, see there's the Water Fowl Recommendations, the motion there was also to accept the recommendations as presented, which passed. And then we got to the, which one had the Crows? Okay, that one also included the crows and there was quite a bit of discussion on that. And the vote on that one was 3-2 I believe, but it did pass. And then the next motion was regarding the Utah Trial Hunter Program and that passed unanimous.

Brian Johnson: Did they talk about maybe us delaying that season like we talked about or did that just go?

Kevin Bunnell: You know they did talk about that Brian but that ended up being such a big issue and so many comments and other things that came up, I think that season date thing kind of got lost in the shuffle just because there was so much going on. And just as an update, there was an additional Board meeting today to deal with the crow issue because there was a protest at the next level up, and it again passed 3-2. You know, the Board voted on it a second time today. I don't know if Bill, if you want to add anything to that but there was a large crowd today up in Salt Lake and that's part of the reason that the Board members aren't here is they've already been to Salt Lake and back. And then Jake called me and asked me to excuse the Board members, he had that going on, and he also had a grandson being delivered tonight and he wanted to be home and be part of that. So he certainly has a good excuse for not being here. Okay.

Bill Bates: Kevin, I'd be glad to answer any questions if there are any.

Dave Black: I would assume there will be opportunities in the future to kind of work on some details, but just to get that through is quite a process; and so they were luck to do that. I think that's it as far as the main items that we were concerned with from the Southern RAC. And then we'll turn the time over to Kevin for an update.

Regional Update:
-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: As far as a regional update I did want to excuse the two Board members. The did contact me and let me know that they wouldn't be here and why, and with good reason.

- Just from the region, a couple of things from out law enforcement section, it's especially appropriate here in Beaver to let you know that Brent Farnsworth is retired. About two weeks ago, Scott? After 37 years I believe, is that correct? 35 years, working in our law enforcement section. So he will certainly be missed. We are anticipating that there are 3 officers that are kind of in our training program right now; we're hoping that one of them, at the end of their training process, will be assigned to the Beaver district. But that's not been completely been decided yet. So we'll just wait and see and see how that happens through the process.
- From our aquatics section, just to let you know that we have requested an emergency rule change for Piute Reservoir. Piute Reservoir is very low. We are anticipating drawing Piute down as low as we can possibly get it this year and then doing a Rotenone treatment to remove a bunch of unwanted species out of there and then restocking it. And so that we waste as few fish as possible we are requesting an emergency change to increase the number of fish that can be kept at Piute Reservoir between now and when the treatment takes place. That isn't completely through the process that has to take place for that to happen but I don't anticipate any problems there. So watch for that, probably here within the next week or ten days you'll, there will be some information about a regulation change at Piute Reservoir.
- Another thing that doesn't get talked about a lot at these meetings but was a huge undertaking in our sensitive species program, particularly the Virgin River fish recovery program, they completed a treatment that's taken years in the making down through the Virgin River Gorge and included Arizona Game and Fish and was very successful and should help that program be even more successful than it has been in removing, because they had to remove some, again some nonnative fish that were having big impacts on what they're trying to accomplish.
- From our wildlife section, the biologists right now are in the middle of their antelope and elk classifications. We are dealing with a few bear issues in the region but it hasn't been a real busy year for bears yet. And we hope that the rains will help keep it from becoming a real bad year. We are planning another goat transplant this year from off of the Tushers. That's currently scheduled for September 2nd and 3rd. We're working to get an open house scheduled to discuss some boundary issues relative to the Oak Creek unit, just to kind of figure out what's the appropriate way to mange that unit. So if you have an interest there look for some information regarding that. And we're also working to get a tour set up for mountain goats on Mt. Dutton. You may remember that the Board asked us to put a committee together relative to help

make sure that we're coordinating issues relative to goats on Mt. Dutton. And this will kind of be the kickoff of that process.

- From our habitat section, two or three months ago, as you'll remember, everybody was very concerned about the water conditions and drought conditions that were developing. So the habitat section set up kind of a drought assessment plan that they've been monitoring, particularly the west desert, every two weeks. I'm glad to report that it's in much better condition now then it was earlier in the year. The recent rains have helped. In some places there's been too many rains, or too much rain. For instance our, the road on, one of the roads on our Indian Peaks Wildlife Management areas is currently washed out but we have a plan in place to get that repaired prior to the archery hunt starting here in about 3 weeks. And with that at this time we're not anticipating any emergency antlerless recommendations. The Board, through the original process you'll remember there was already an increase in the number of antlerless tags out on that west desert unit, and we think that's probably adequate to address current conditions out there.
- A couple of things coming up in our outreach section, if you're interested, we have an annual, a fairly large event with, where we bring people up to look at the goats here on the Tushers. Lynn, maybe I'll let you fill in the details on that if you would. Sorry I should have warned you.

Lynn Chamberlain: Yeah, typically we do that the first weekend of August, so that's going to be this Saturday. Uh, we'll be meeting at the parking lot at the Shell station on the south Beaver exit about 7:30, 8 o'clock or so. We'll leave and caravan on up to the top of the Tushers, up through Big John Flat and up on top of the mountain right there. We've had anywhere from 35 to 75 cars that follow me up. So there are a lot of people that come and watch that. Then we'll also be there Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and next Saturday for the Piute ATV festival; we'll be up there watching goats also for folks that drive by in that.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, thank you Lynn. We also have a youth fishing clinic in Cedar City, August 9th. It's a great opportunity if you're from the Cedar area and have, you know, kids in your neighborhood that you're aware of that have an interest but never had the opportunity to fish and to learn about fishing that would be a great place to get kids started. And similarly there will be a waterfowl hunting clinic held in Fillmore August 13th; again, another opportunity to get um, doesn't have to be kids, but people that have had an interest or want to get, break the ice with hunting waterfowl but have never kind of known what the first step is. Um, we'll be holding a clinic in cooperation with some of the sportsman's groups to kind of introduce people to waterfowl hunting on August 13th. So if there isn't any questions that's all I had Dave.

Dave Black: How many goats are you looking to transplant off the Tushers?

Kevin Bunnell: Um, twenty. We'll be moving 20 goats from the Tushers, again, over to the LaSal Mountains.

Dave Black: Okay, let's move to our first action item then. It will be by Jason Robinson, and it's the Turkey Depredation Rule, new rule R657-69.

Turkey Depredation Rule R657-69 (action) 18:40 to 26:28 of 3:03:33
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Sean.

Sean Kelly: Okay, Jason this might be getting a little ahead but, I noticed on the rule that there's an allowance for a 2 mile buffer for control permits. And what conditions do you apply that?

Jason Robinson: It would be up to the discretion, basically between the Division and the landowner. If you had a whole bunch of turkeys concentrated in a very small private property so it's causing some damage on that particular property owner but they're moving off so that it makes it hard to maybe harvest some of those birds but they're coming back; we might be able to put a buffer there to allow those birds to be moved even further or to have some of those birds harvested. So it would be both the landowner and the Division as part of that mitigation plan.

Sean Kelly: Does that buffer overlap, we'll say a public land during a big game hunt, would there be a hunter orange requirement associated with hunting those birds?

Jason Robinson: It would be a case-by-case basis. So the region would have to determine if that needed to be in place or if they could stop it at public land or whatever. Um, and one of the things with a fall hunt is it's not like a spring hunt. So these hunts would occur mostly in fall and winter. So the importance of camouflage isn't quite as critical as it is in a spring hunt.

Sean Kelly: Just to understand it better, you think this would be fairly rare that it would incorporate a 2 mile buffer on a control permit?

Jason Robinson: Correct. The main objective of this is to help the landowner deal with damage to his property. And so we want to focus those permits and that effort on the private landowner's property.

Dave Black: Any additional question? Are we going to see any fall hunts this year?

Jason Robinson: Yes, in the current guidebook that's out, available now, there are fall hunts that will take place beginning in November of this year. So if the hunters interested they can get a copy of that guidebook and see when the season dates are and everything; it's out.

Dave Black: Okay. Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: On the uh valid hunting license, combination license, does the mentoring program, would that pertain to this, could a mentoring person be included in that?

Jason Robinson: Um, yeah I guess so. I guess I haven't thought through that exactly but as long as they met all of the requirements of both this hunt and the mentoring program they should be able to qualify.

Dave Black: It would be a good opportunity I think for young.

Jason Robinson: And a landowner can, you know, if they're related or if it's a voucher they can provide that to a youth to hunt on their property.

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the public:

None.

Comments from the public:

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Okay. Do we have any comments from the RAC? We don't have any comment cards from the public so I think we're ready to entertain a motion.

Dale Bagley: I'll make a motion we approve Rule 657-69 as presented.

Dave Black: Okay. It looks like we have motion and a second from Layne. Is there any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? It passes unanimous.

Unanimous.

Dale Bagley made the motion to accept the Turkey Depredation Rule R657-69 as presented. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move to the next item which is item number 6, Proposed Fee Schedule FY2016 and Kevin Bunnell will be presenting.

Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2016 (action) 30:48 to 41:15 of 3:03:33
-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Region Supervisor
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Why are elk and sheep going towards a furbearer plan and not towards the species?

Kevin Bunnell: Well the fees always come out this time of year because it's part of the legislative process. We have a due date that we have to get stuff to the governor's office. So again, you know Sam this is just to put a fee in place so that if we ever institute anything like this we have it in place. Before you would ever see, you know, two cow elk permits implemented our ewe hunts, it would come back through this process through the Big Game RAC and then you'd have an opportunity to evaluate that on each individual case and on it's merits. This is simply to have a structure in place if we ever needed to do that.

Sam Carpenter: So in the end it would probably be changed by the time these hunts actually materialize?

Kevin Bunnell: Um, I don't understand, what would be changed?

Sam Carpenter: Well I'm saying that the bighorn sheep, the ewes, that money would go towards bighorn sheep, the elk would go towards big game. When it was finally materialized it wouldn't go towards the furbearer. This is just the process to get it in there.

Kevin Bunnell: Oh no, no. This is just because of the legislative process that we have to go through. This is the time of year when we always bring fees out; it's always during the July RAC.

Dave Black: Do we have any other question from the RAC? Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: How long has the bobcat been $5.00?

Bill Bates: Actually I can talk about this because I've been involved in bobcat management for a long time. But bobcat fees were, they were originally $5.00 when the permits were started, I think it was probably about 1978. Anyway in 1975 we had the (Unintelligible) Act and bobcat trapping was closed for a few years, it was probably 1980, but anyway that time period. So it's been $5.00 ever since at least 1980. And where that money, you know, how the money is used for bobcats, right now it's $5.00 per permit and I believe that it, what we do is we age every bobcat that is turned in, and I believe it's about $4.00 per tooth . . . yeah, yeah, okay so. So anyway that's what it's used for, it's for aging the bobcat teeth. And then also we do a survey; the money would go towards that. And then also the time to check in bobcats to have them sealed.

Dave Black: Thank you. Do you have another question Rusty?

Rusty Aiken: No.

Dave Black: Anybody else? Okay, we'll turn the time over to the audience for questions, and then just a few minutes we'll go through the comment cards. So if you have a question feel free to come forward. If you do come forward to the mic tonight please state your name.

Questions from the Public:

None.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, let's move right into the comments then. How many of you here are from Utah Trappers Association, by the show of hands? We want to thank you for coming. We appreciate you being here, for your input. And if you had to travel a long ways we appreciate you being here tonight. The first card that we have is from Kent Fowden.

Kent Fowden: Mr. Chairman, RAC Board, I represent the Utah Trappers Association. We're not opposed, or we oppose such a large increase in the fees. We understand administrative fees. It's not really been an issue since 1980. Some of the proposals are good. I commend the Fish and Game on the muskrat, that's been needed. The hands of the managers have been tied. So the nonresident part we support that on the bobcats. Such a large increase all at once is kind of a shocker. Again, administrative fees and that we understand that. It's just such a large increase from what it's been; it's not been addressed since 1980. Where Utah's the only state that even has the temporary tags, again, we understand the administrative costs but we feel that since 1980 there's not really been any foundation for

the increase. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay. I also have a number of cards here that would like to get their comments out but they indicated that they didn't want to come forward. Uh, you still have an opportunity to do that if you'd like. But let me go through these cards. Um, I have one from Jason Davis. I agree with the UTA, Utah Trappers Association with the number of tags but I think that they should stay at $5.00. I also think that the check day should be changed from 48 hours to 72 hours or 96 hours. Okay. So we'll leave that out here so we make sure we address the hours in our discussion. I think that the season should be longer. I also think that the price should be increased but not more than $10.00 per tag; and this is Randy Robinson. Travis Seifers, regarding the fee schedule, I think tripling the cost of the bobcat tag is too extreme. I'm fine with the fee increase but not, but in gradual steps. Mike Hart, I support the tag increase but do not want fees to go up. Alan Hart, I like the proposal of the bobcat tag going up to 6 but I don't like that the tags are going up in price. Norm Hart supports the UTA. And we have a comment from Randall Robinson, I feel that the UTA proposal should be enacted; tag fees for the bobcats should not change too dramatically. Is there anybody else that has a comment card that we need to discuss? So it looks like in the comment cards the majority of those are regarding that the fee increases and then there was also a comment card that was talking about the check days from 48 to 72 or 96. Okay, so that will be coming up in the next presentation.

Rusty Aiken: Not on mic.

Dave Black: From the Utah Houndsman?

Kevin Bunnell: Kent, do you guys have a fee that you're proposing as an alternative to the $15.00 from the Association?

Kent Fowden: No sir. In answer to your question it's kind of a shocker. It was just recognized in, on the website. It wasn't really advertised so there hasn't been a lot of time given to it. I had a discussion with Mr. Bates. And like I say, we do recognize that there is some, over time there have been some changes in management and things of that nature that increase the costs, we do recognize that. We feel like it should have been addressed over a period of time as things have changed rather than a knee jerk reaction, in our opinion, to what happened with the fiasco in October. That's the feeling of the trappers, is it's a knee jerk reaction. Again, we understand administrative costs. The cost of living, everything, that part of it we do understand that. It's just tripling it all at once it's just kind of a shocker. Again, Utah is the only state that has the tags and we wonder about the need to even have the tags. And then one last comment, the average price of a pelt is $407.00. In all honesty it probably costs close to $600.00 to harvest one. So that's a misnomer. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Just one comment I might have is we're the first RAC. I think this meeting, if you had some suggestions for a fee increase that went to some other RACs or even before the Board when the Board meets that might be helpful as well.

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: I have a question. What do other surrounding states, if we're the only ones that do tags, what do the surrounding states do for bobcat harvest, how do they handle it?

Bill Bates: I can't tell you state by state but I know that what most of them do is just require you to have a furbearer license. And you know, and I can answer, you know, if there are, I don't know if Colorado charges any more or not. But uh, I'm, you know, but most of them just require you to have a furbearer license.

Dave Black: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Was there any discussion amongst DWR on why they would increase the tags as drastically as they have? What was the justification?

Bill Bates: Well the price, you know this is something that, you know, Kent is right, this is something that we should have looked at over time. But pretty much, since bobcats are kind of, you know, there are not a lot of people that hunt or trap bobcats, it's kind of just slid under the radar so to speak. After what happened last October, in case you're not aware we accidently raised the price to $15.00 on the website. And so what Kent's talking about is that at 8 o'clock it turned to, you know, what we had is first come first served, you know, buy 3 bobcat tags and uh, people weren't flinching at paying $15.00 a piece. So in some respects he's right. We took that as indication that since we didn't receive a lot of complaints, at it wasn't even brought to our attention for a while, that the market value is probably higher than where it had been set. And then we also looked at that it was costing us to run the bobcat program in particular. And you know I think that they've had some good comments and one thing I'm going to go back and do is have the person, Leslie McFarland who's involved in, who's our new mammals coordinator and Heather Bernalis who does our data analysis, have them look at that it costs to run the bobcat program. And so one thing you might think about is, you know, if a recommendation might, it might be modified to accurately reflect what the program costs. I mean we just threw this out as a kind of a straw dog to see what the public thought about it. Uh, and also, this won't take effect this next fall. This is something that like Kevin described, it has to go to the governor's office, to the legislature and then come back to the RACs. And if it's approved the next time we would bring it to the RACs and the Board would most likely be next November because we're going to go to one hunting guidebook next year. And that means that we may not even be implementing this until the following January or maybe not even the next season.

Kevin Bunnell: That's not quite right Bill. With the fee, once it's gone through the legislature that's the fee and it would be implemented as of July 1, 2015.

Bill Bates: But if we've already sold those bobcat tags in you're right.

Kevin Bunnell: Anything sold after July 1, 2015 would have the higher, the higher fee.

Bill Bates: That's true, you're right. So they would be the $15.00 in October, you're right. Thanks for that.

Sam Carpenter: So did we refund the people that paid $15.00 for a $5.00 tag?

Bill Bates: We did. We did. I sit on the error committee and we had 900 errors. And it was painful.

Sam Carpenter: Could this be progressionary maybe over a period of time other than just hit them all at once?

Bill Bates: Well I think so. But I think what I would like to do is go back and look at what the actual

cost of the program is and maybe with the UTA maybe talk about what legitimate costs are and see what it's costing us to do the activities we're doing. So I mean that's just something for you to think about. Our recommendation is for $15.00 but that is an option is to have us (unintelligible).

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so I understand, if we do pass this recommendation for $15, when it comes back in November it will be set, is that true? So once we pass this at this RAC it goes to the Board and it is passed it will be $15.00.

Bill Bates: Not necessarily. What happens is that, if you recommend to the Wildlife Board to pass this the Wildlife Board still has the option of taking input from all the RACs, they may change the price, and then when we take it to the governor's office after the Wildlife Board passes it they may change the price, and then when we take it to the legislature there's still an opportunity for it to be changed. But typically if we have a good recommendation then it gets approved clear through the process. And I would say this one probably needs to be looked at a little closer.

Sam Carpenter: So would you propose that we wait until we actually see what the costs are to take this that far?

Bill Bates: Okay, I have to be careful here because our Division proposal is for $15.00, but if you want to make the recommendation that we adjust the fee to represent what the cost of the program is that is certainly something we could take into account.

Sam Carpenter: How would you trappers feel about that? Does that sound a little more fair than a big jump?

Rusty Aiken: So they buy a license as well as the?

Bill Bates: Right, the furbearer license allows them to take beaver, you know . . .

Rusty Aiken: And what does a license cost?

Bill Bates: Oh what is it? Thirty dollars? How much? Twenty-nine, okay.

Rusty Aiken: And that gives them 6 bobcats?

Bill Bates: No, they have to buy, yeah you buy the tag . . .

Rusty Aiken: So you can limit how many tags they get.

Bill Bates: A tag per bobcat. Yeah, last year was 3 and we're going to propose to make it 6 here later tonight, and that's up to you guys to decide.

Dave Black: Okay, also I was just going to remind you we don't have a motion yet and so we can tailor that motion the way that we'd like. Um, and I'm not going to put words in your mouth either but we might could say that it reflect the actual cost and not to exceed the $15.00 fee or something like that. We can tailor it anyway we want to set that motion up.

Bill Bates: We're taking out for public comment and that's what we're here for.

Brian Johnson: I just have a comment over here. I understand that these guys went and bought their bobcat tags for $15.00 a piece but if you take something that somebody loves and you put $100.00 bill on there they probably would have bought it and figured it out later because they didn't want to have that opportunity taken from them. And I'm sure that they just figured they'd get their money back after the fact. And so for you, for an entity to say well nobody really squealed too loud, my heck we just took something that they love to do and it's first come first serve so these guys just pulled out their wallet and got it done because they figured they'd make it right later and they didn't want to come and wait for it to get fixed and then not get a bobcat tag. Am I right? Is that kind of what you were thinking?

Bill Bates: Yeah, and I agree with that, but I just want to clarify though that the reason for the increase is not that, there are legitimate increases in the program.

Brian Johnson: I understand that. It just sounds kind of funny that it's the same amount. I mean, I don't know, I'm just being a cynic.

Bill Bates: You know you can put that on my shoulders because the Director's office asked, what should it be? And I said, well let's go with $15.00 and see what the public thinks.

Dave Black: Okay, are we ready to formulate a motion?

Cordell Pearson: I'll make the motion. I would to make a motion that we accept DWR's proposal except for the fee on the bobcats and that we take a look at that and see what the actual cost is and once we find out that actual cost then that will be our recommendation. Right, and it will not exceed $15.00.

Rusty Aiken: I'll second it.

Dave Black: Okay. We have a motion from Cordell and a second from Rusty. Is there any discussion on the motion? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I don't know that I would accept if it doesn't exceed $15. What if it costs $20.00 to run the program? Why would we want to lose money in any of our programs?

Brian Johnson: I think some of that should come from the furbearer actual $29.00 license fee. I mean there should be a percentage of that that comes from the $29.00 furbearer feel. And so, I don't know. Yeah, they've been living on $5.00 since 1980, so.

Cordell Pearson: I was just going to say that same thing. I mean it don't seem like that fee is that costly at this point in time, where evidently we haven't looked at it real close. So I want to leave the motion as it is, that it does not exceed $15.00 at this time.

Dave Black: Okay, do have a motion and second. And we can vote on that motion or we could, if Clair wanted to amend the motion we would vote on the amendment first. Okay, let's vote on the motion. All those in favor? All those opposed. Motion carries.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept the Proposed Fee Schedule as presented with the exception that the fee for bobcat tags be determined based on the actual cost of the bobcat program but not to exceed $15. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried 7 in favor, 1 opposed (Clair Woodbury opposed).

Dave Black: Okay, the next item on the agenda is the Cougar Management Plan Revisions and the 2015 Recommendations and they will be presented by Bill Bates.

Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations (action)
1:01:54 to 1:14:25 of 3:03:33
-Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have questions from RAC?

Rusty Aiken: Do the Zion unit with a split unit to protect the sheep, what would you do?

Bill Bates: It's already, Teresa said that's already harvested.

Rusty Aiken: It's an open, there's an unlimited?

Bill Bates: It's already harvest objective. We're getting good harvest there. We typically usually always got good harvest there.

Rusty Aiken: So there's a max of 20 total?

Bill Bates: But, we probably didn't reach that last year?

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions from the RAC?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah. I'm hoping you're a lion expert because I read through the plan and there's just do many things in there that I guess I just didn't really understand about mountain lions. And so, I've gone in and done a lot of research on the Internet and you can find about anything you want out there is what I've learned. But I've never heard what kind of ratio do you have on a male to female in a mountain lion population. What are the ratios on those?

Bill Bates: Oh that's a tough one, I bet, I think that the best place to get some information on that, in Utah, would be two different places; we did a ten year study on the Boulders under the direction of Dr. Fred Lindsey out of Utah State and then through Dr. Mike Wolfe on the Monroe, we did, and Dave Stoner, we've done about a 15 year, and maybe even longer than that now, on the Monroe. And typically what happens is the birth ratio is of course about 50:50. But what you have is you have resident toms that establish larger territories than the females. And so typically within the home range of one male you will have either two or three females. But on the other hand you have juvenile males, or those that aren't able to establish a population because they either get killed or they wander off, and so I would guess that it's tipped towards females.

Sam Carpenter: Well the information I was able to obtain, and there were several places that agreed to this, is it's about a 60:40 female to male relationship.

Bill Bates: That's a much shorter answer than I was thinking.

Sam Carpenter: And the next question I tried to find is how many kittens are in a litter, on average for lions?

Bill Bates: I believe it's like 2.3.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, well 3 to 6 is what the consensus was there.

Bill Bates: 3 to 6 is what they can have but if you're looking at averages it's a different thing.

Sam Carpenter: And how many of them survive to adult?

Bill Bates: Uh, I'm sure we could dig that up.

Sam Carpenter: So I'm just burying you with stuff, which probably is going to be irrelevant. They say 60%. Okay, and another thing I learned on there is that the cougar requires 8 to 10 pounds of meat per day to sustain. Do you agree to that?

Bill Bates: Depending on, uh actually Fred Lindsey had his graduate student that did a lot of work on that on the Boulder. And what he found is it depends on the, you now whether it's an adult top, an adult female, a sub-adult female; and on average a cougar, you know, takes, kills a deer per week according to that study. A female with kittens kills one every 4 day, a sub-adult female once every 10 days.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. Okay, well this was, and one thing they did specify on most of the accounts that I read was that they may eat 30 pounds of meat one day and go for 4 or 5 days without.

Bill Bates: Well that's what they do.

Sam Carpenter: It's just an average from cougars in captivity to sustain them.

Bill Bates: A lot of interesting things, information.

Dave Black: Do I have any questions down at this end? Brian? Cordell?

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, and I don't think that you were here when we talked, and it's been probably 6 months ago, 8 months ago that we asked, do you remember this that we asked for the person that was doing the study on the Monroe to come to this meeting?

Bill Bates: Oh that would be . . .

Cordell Pearson: And explain to us, you know, how many cougars he tagged, how many females, how many males, and that's been at least 6 or 8 months ago and we've never seen anybody.

Kevin Bunnell: No Cordell. I have to push back on that, we held a special open house just on that topic in Richfield and invited everybody to be there because we couldn't cover that topic and give it justice in 20 minutes at a RAC meeting. So we held a meeting for about 3 hours in Richfield; and it was a fantastic meeting for those that attended.

Bill Bates: Well attended too. I believe that I counted there was about 80 people there. And we . . .

Kevin Bunnell: We met that request.

Bill Bates: And we not only talked about cougars but also the coyote program and the fawn recruitment. It was an excellent meeting.

Dave Black: Okay, go ahead.

Cordell Pearson: And my next question is, how many sates issue permits like we do and how many of them have open permits over the counter? Is there any other states that do what we do?

Bill Bates: Oh wow. It's all over the board. California doesn't allow . . .

Cordell Pearson: I realize California, that's the people's republic of California.

Bill Bates: And Colorado doesn't allow the hunting of cougars with hounds.

Kevin Bunnell: That's bears.

Bill Bates: Bears, okay. Arizona has a year round season but they have very few hunters and there are also some restrictions on hounds down there. So it's kind of all over the place.

Cordell Pearson: But pretty much all of our surrounding states have open cougar tags, like Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nevada.

Bill Bates: Montana has a pretty aggressive cougar management program though. But it's uh . .

Kevin Bunnell: Wyoming's is very similar to ours in terms of issuing tags. Wyoming has some units that they manage for a trophy experience and issue tags and other units that are open very similar to the way we do. Idaho, um, last I knew was a little more liberal. I think in some states you can actually tag a cougar with your deer tag if have the opportunity. So there's lots of variation out there

Bill Bates: Although Idaho, don't they have, isn't theirs managed by a quota though? Even though you can buy a permit . . . these guys hunt up there they'll know.

Kevin Bunnell: I don't know right off the top of my head.

Dave Black: One more?

Cordell Pearson: In the plan, and what I read, I constantly come across the need to make hunters understand the cougar to prey interactions. What are they referring to? I think we all pretty much know the cougar prey interactions don't we?

Bill Bates: Yeah, Kevin I'm going to defer that back to you. You were part of that plan; do you remember what they're referring to?

Kevin Bunnell: I guess you'd have to put that in context and where in the plan it talks about that Sam?

Sam Carpenter: Well some of the goals and stuff were to start having articles in sportsman's magazines, and it named several, and in meetings, to explain the cougar prey interactions to hunters.

Bill Bates: I would guess what that's referring to is that typically with most predators that there's a relationship that if the prey base declines then there's a lag effect and the predators themselves will follow, their population will decline maybe a year later, a year to two later. And then as the prey increases then the predators will increase. But typically most cases predators don't wipe out their prey because that doesn't make any sense to them. You know to biologically, or evolutionary for them to do that. So I would guess that's what that is referring to. Although in the first cougar plan there was an article written by Dr. Mike Wolfe that talked about the predator pit which might change that in where if you have multiple prey species and multiple predators it kind of changes the dynamic. But maybe that's what they're referring to is just that relationship between multiple prey and multiple predators or single visa versa, whatever.

Sam Carpenter: Thank you, I'll decease.

Bill Bates: Don't decease, desist is better.

Dave Black: Okay. All right, we'll entertain any questions from the public?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Scott.

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, Loa, Utah. Of the plan, is there areas that aren't meeting the quotas or the objectives on the fill in the state?

Bill Bates: Yes.

Scott Christensen: By how far? Do we know a percentage of those?

Bill Bates: I don't a spreadsheet here to show that tonight. But there are quite a few that aren't meeting it. But there's the opportunity for people to go and hunt, you know, and take those animals but the quotas are set to a level that . . .

Scott Christensen: But we're not hinting the quotas. Is there a reason why we don't allow other forms of hunting? I mean cougars are pretty hard to hunt if you don't get snow, if you don't have hounds or hire somebody to run hounds. For a guy like me that wants to possible harvest a cougar I've got to hire somebody. Is there other options we can explore like snaring or trapping in those areas we're not hitting the quotas anyways? Is that an option?

Bill Bates: It is certainly an option and what I would do is defer that to the cougar advisory board when they reopen the plan. And I know we've talked about that in the past, in fact we've had several proposals over the years that have never met the public support over, you know, the a large number, a large percent of the public to support that. Utah Trappers Association in fact proposed that to me probably back about 1989, so we've been talking about it that long. I would mention that I did have another hair brained idea besides raising the permit fee on bobcats to $15.00, is I suggested that should we have a spot and stalk cougar season where that if somebody bought a, anybody with a big game permit could also purchase a cougar spot and stalk permit and harvest that during their big game season without the use of hounds. So we're talking about different ideas.

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood, Utah. Bill, um, when I heard your presentation a few weeks ago I thought I understood the proposal to say that on the e quota units that there was a way for hunters to purchase an extended or maybe even a year round permit so that if they were in the field, whether it's during the deer hunt, elk hunt, or whether it's in March, and they see a cougar they can take that. Is that correct?

Bill Bates: On units that are harvest objective, anybody can go buy an over the counter permits and if they're out in the field they're able to go out and harvest a lion that way. Some of those units though will end like June, I believe it's June 2nd or something, but some of them extend clear, they're almost year round. But yeah, you're right.

DeLoss Christensen: So Cordell that may get you some of what I think we'd all like to see maybe a little more liberal issue there. But I wanted to bring that up.

Dave Black: Okay, if there are no more questions we'll move to the comment cards.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: It looks like Scott Christensen is first.

Scott Christensen: I'd like to make the comment that we look at the recommendation of, on areas that aren't hitting our quotas consistently that we open up other forms of harvesting those cats. I certainly want to protect the resource and don't want to overdo it but there's other ways to harvest and give the sportsman other opportunities if they don't have the ability or the means to hire, there's ways that's done it. I've seen it done quite a bit in New Mexico with trail cams and whatnot. The success is pretty high on actually pinpointing the cat they want to catch. They're pretty habitual. It does take time but it is possible. So that's my comment.

Dave Black: Thanks Scott. Dan Cockayne.

Dan Cockayne: My name's Dan Cockayne. I'm the president of Utah Houndsman Association. And I've also been asked to represent the San Pete Houndsman tonight. I first want to say that I appreciate these guys and their willingness to work with us. But I think that we need to point out a huge failure on the part of the Division; and they've agreed, Leslie and Bill both. The Wildlife Board referred this back to them a year ago to work through this very confusing management plan that really no one understands. And we began working on it May 19th. That's the first time that the cougar advisory board was called together. And then at that time it wasn't a complete group. So we had one meeting, came to some conclusions and then between that date and July 9th, I believe is when, there was a change in personnel in the Division and that plan was scrapped and a new plan was presented to just a few of us. There was the Utah Houndsman, the Utah Wildlife Cooperative I believe, and the SFW. I don't believe that's time enough to work through this confusing plan. And it's still confusing and it contradicts itself. And we can't change the past but we certainly need to fix it in the future. We agree that there are places where we need to keep the cougar numbers in check because the other species aren't at the management levels that we've chosen, whether those are right or wrong I don't know. But there are also areas where we're managing cougars; they're called cougar management areas. And we believe that they should be managed so that we can have some cougars. That's, it's a world-class animal. It's on the level of the

lions and the tigers in Africa. And people will come from all over the world to hunt them. And you know the first, one of the first lines in the cougar management plan is from the settlement of the territory to 1966 we persecuted them as vermin and there are many who still would like to do that. And we just are saying that we don't need to do that. We can have cougars and we can have a quality hunt and we can take care of livestock and we can take care of the big game; and we've worked through ways to do that. But just a wholesale change of part of the plan doesn't work. It's a complicated process and it all needs to be worked though. The way it's presented right now it, there's a line that says we want to go back to unit by unit, which the big game asked us, the Board asked to do. And they asked to simplify the plan but we didn't simplify it. We said we want to have about a 40 percent female harvest, which the science says that's about right, but then, but then when you go to the chart that shows how do we calculate those tags, how do we adjust it we're back to the adult. And it, um, it's confusing. The way it's at right now is it's not ready for primetime. It doesn't work. It makes some of the populations vulnerable, it makes others where there won't be any much harvest done. So we would ask you, and if you haven't received a letter I have a copy, but we would ask you to reject the plan as it is presented. We need to fix some of the things in it and we don't need to throw the whole thing out, but we agree it should be based on a unit by unit but it should make sense. We would ask for a female sub-quota on the cougar management units. In lieu of that we'd ask that those cougar management units all go to limited entry so we don't have this . . .You have an opportunity to kill a nice lion but only for a certain time and after that it's a free for all. And I don't know if you've heard much about what happened to the Bookcliffs but basically when it went to predator management this year, and the same with the San Juan, but um, they were, if you went out there at midnight you would find 5 or 6 hired guides, or whatever they are, sitting on a lion track waiting for daylight for a client. It was just awful. And we're trying to promote young people in the sport and you know getting them in the woods. And you take them in the woods and there's 7 or 8 guys out there sitting on a lion track. And that outfitter is making 4 or 5 thousand dollars on that lion. You can't blame him for that but it's just, it's creating chaos. They did really well, they killed a lot of tom lions out there on the Bookcliffs but at the end of the season they killed all females. There weren't any toms left. And we feel that we can have these lions . . . What we have done is created chaos. If we can let these lions build their territory and grow up a little bit that research shows they don't have near the problem with livestock, we don't have near the problem with the big game, it's easy on transients that are moving in. And you know at the lion conference they just had in Cedar City, one of the guys from Washington said you know you kill one lion and three come to the funeral and they stay. And that's because we have this system where it's a competition. As soon as that opens if you don't hurry and go kill something you miss out on all your opportunity. If we just leveled it out, let the cougar management areas be limited entry, let the predator management areas be harvest objective. Anyone can buy a tag, if they see a lion and they want to kill it it's year round. It answers both of the things without a wholesale one-way or the other. So we'd ask you to either vote for a female sub-quota or change those to limited, the splits to limited entry. And then also ask them to consider all the females in the harvest, which the plan doesn't call for right now. The other thing that, I believe this RAC voted for last year and then it got lost in the shuffle at the Big Game Board meeting when, um, the reason that the director asked that the Board vote to reopen this plan and fix it so that everyone could understand it, but the GPS location of all the harvest, that, that came to us from law enforcement, from the Cos, as another tool in their belt to deal with, you know, poaching and taking a lion off of a limited entry unit and claiming it on a harvest objective, and that got lost in the shuffle. We'd ask that you send that request back to the Big Game Board. Thank you.

Cordell Pearson: I think you said it there but maybe I misunderstood you. So the Utah Houndsman would not object to buying a cougar permit over the counter for big game hunts, you can only kill them during a big game hunt. Is that what you just said?

Dan Cockayne: On the predator management units, that's the way it is right now.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, I'm not talking about predator management. I'm talking statewide.

Dan Cockayne: No not statewide, we'd object to that. We don't have a female sub quota and we're not counting the juvenile, or the sub-adult females. And when you see a cougar on the hillside you're going to see it for about 10 to 15 seconds at the most. I've been in the woods my whole life, you know, 50- 60 days a year hunting lions and I honestly can tell you I've seen one in the headlights in all those years. So it doesn't happen that often and there's not a chance to decide is this a trophy or is it just, does it have spots? Who knows? We wouldn't support that any further than it already is allowed.

Dave Black: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, obviously you're passion is lions and my passion is mule deer; and we're going to collide with that point.

Dan Cockayne: But now that's not true. My passion is, it's ducks, and geese, and fish, and mule deer, and elk, and bighorn sheep, and lions, and bears, and I like dogs; and so we're not going to clash. We can work together and we need to.

Sam Carpenter: Let me ask you this, how would you feel if we used the deer population to determine the number of lion tags? And if we're 15% over objective we'll increase lion tags on that unit as long as it's below or at objective we'll keep that number up where it is and quit reducing. The predator management plan, or the lion plan, when you read it and go through it . . . and I've done the math, the silly questions I ask all have to do with a formula, not necessarily a formula but just an equation of what's happening with that plan. And when you go through and use the data in that plan we're managing cougars to increase by 16% every year. We're killing, the amount of meat they eat every day 60,500 deer a year to feed lions. That's excessive in my opinion.

Dan Cockayne: You know what? When I was young and when my dad was young and my grandpa was young and the deer hunting was great those cougars were eating just as many deer. But we weren't killing as many with our bumpers. We weren't, we didn't have rifles where we could shoot a 2-point from 800 yards, and so there are a lot more factors than just that lion eating deer. I eat deer, you eat deer, the lions eat deer; I mean there's no question. The lions eat coyotes, and they eat skunks, they eat porcupines, and they eat rabbits. Also, they eat rabbits, and they eat sheep, and they eat cows. And I'm not here to say that the lions are not part of the reason that the mule deer have declined but they are not the only reason. They've always been on the landscape. And if you talk to any houndsman that's been on the mountain much the numbers of lions are getting less and less and less. The reason we're killing less is because they are not there. I mean there's not a lion behind every bush. There just isn't.

Sam Carpenter: And 'll agree with that. I spend an awful lot of time out as well and I haven't see lions visually during the day. The only time I've really seen them is in the headlights. And when I see the population estimates and things like that it just amazes me where they get these numbers. I have no idea.

Dan Cockayne: We haven't done a population estimate since 1999, and so who knows what has happened with their habitat, with the drought, with fires, with all those things. So we don't know. No one knows. We don't know how many lions are out there but if you just take the guys that are out there looking for a track in the snow, and so you take a year like last year and the majority of the lion hunters are hunting in the snow, we had very little snow, sure the take is going to be down. The other thing that

was talked about is trapping and snaring, which it may be a viable method for taking cougar but it totally eliminates dogs. When a full-grown trained dog is worth anywhere from $5,000.00 to $10,000 right now. A bobcat trap, you can take them out of and there's probably not much damage, and I've done that a lot. But a lion trap or a snare, that's a dead dog. And so it will drive the houndsman right off the range and then we'll take very, very few lions.

Sam Carpenter: So you feel the population is in decline and the reason is the hunting methods and the management plan that's in place at this time?

Dan Cockayne: No I think there are a lot of factors. I think there are a lot of factors but I do know if we keep killing the females and orphaning kittens; that happens because those kittens aren't with those females. And um, you know the study they did just down in Montrose, about 60% of the female, collared female lions orphaned at least one kitten. Me personally I've never seen more than two kittens with a lion. So if we, the indicator of declining population, in the book it's called, Kevin can you help me with the? What's the name of the book that we base the plan on? Managing cougars in North America, I believe that's the name of the book. It talks about it in the plan and it's available through the DWR. One of the indicators of a declining population is an increase in females in the harvest and the age class going down. And we're seeing it year after year. I don't know what it is this year because we haven't, it's not published yet. But all the scientific indicators are it's a declining population. We'd just like to keep something out there for us to hunt. We're not, we don't want everything but we sure would like something.

Sam Carpenter: Come south, there's lots of a cougar.

Dan Cockayne: Well I hunt the LaSal a lot, and there are not the cougars there as 10 years ago, nowhere near.

Sam Carpenter: Nor the deer.

Dan Cockayne: Nor the deer, you're right. They have to have something to eat.

Dave Black: Dan we appreciate you coming and taking the extra time and answering questions. You've done an excellent job and we appreciate you being here. Thank you.

Dan Cockayne: Thank you for your time. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. I have more comment cards, let's see, Greg McGregor.

Greg McGregor: Greg McGregor, Santa Clara, Utah. I think I have an answer, we take all the, or round up all the cougars and send them out to southwest desert and have them eat the horses out there. There's a lot of horses out there. Um, I represent this evening a conglomerate of individuals and representatives of sportsman's groups that have come together called partners in Pine Valley. And what I would like to address this evening in particular is the Pine Valley unit. Um, our mission statement is concerned statement is concerned citizens and advocates for the enhancement and conservation of habitat and wildlife on the Pine Valley wildlife unit; thus preserving our hunting rights and traditions for generations to come. Just an idea of those making up this committee, we have representation of the following: Mule Deer Foundation, RMEF, SFW, the county commissioners, the BLM, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Southern Safari Club International of Southern Utah, the NRA, and stockman. So we've got a very good input regarding our proposal here this evening. Now as I hear the

conversation tonight I believe that in front of meeting, and us not necessarily at this hour, but at this time there is a committee in Salt Lake City addressing the new 5-year mule deer plan. And it doesn't take some of you with a very high IQ such as myself to discern that mule deer in this state should be the number one priority for the Division, and for all involved because that is the bread and butter of what this state is when it comes to hunting. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that. On the Pine Valley Unit, the management objective for deer, and I'll get to this all factors into what lions have to do with this, the management objective is 16,000 and we're at 12,000, that's 25%. It's been at 12,000 for a while. Okay, we sent a letter to the management, to the wildlife, not that, the mule deer committee making recommendations on what to do about that. Um, about 15 years ago I think the Pine Valley had about 12-limited entry permit tags for lions on the Pine Valley. It took a couple of years but sportsman convinced the division to open that up to a quota. 40 cougars were killed the very next year; 40 again the year after that. Then it went down to about 35, thereabouts. Now it's somewhat leveled off. And I believe the recommendations this year for the Pine Valley, and I find it a little bit absurd that we have 10 objective tags on the Southern Part of the Pine Valley, we call us being split, and 8, I don't know how many are quota and how many are permit on the Northern unit. And they say, it has been said that that is to protect the bighorn sheep. What about the mule deer? What about the mule deer? I think that every place in the state right now ought to be a wildlife management objective for whatever predator there is. I mean we go after the coyotes; we just need to make sure . . . And we're not out to eradicate any species, we just want them controlled to the point where another species doesn't leave us in favor of another one. And we don't want that to happen. I polled three houndsman today and they were in favor of what we had to propose tonight. Huntable area, you look at the Pine Valley unit . . . And I asked these houndsman, what is the percentage of huntable area on the Pine Valley? 20 percent may be huntable. That means that there's 80 percent that could house cougars. It's a hatchery for cougars. They get taken, the others from that area come back and uh, progress and take over dominion of the area of those toms that have been taken out of there. And so there's a, you know, we're down to what it is to uh, to uh, the total quota on the Pine Valley is now 18. Uh, the surrounding states, I believe Arizona, I think you can take a cat with your license. I know in Nevada you can and in Idaho you can. You can take a cat and give up your deer tag in order to take a cat. Um, we just think, and we would like to propose to the Division tonight and to this RAC . . . And by the way thanks for being audience to me and my representation here this evening. We appreciate your time and effort on our behalf. We would like to make a recommendation that the Pine Valley unit as a whole have 25-quota tags split however you see fit between the north and the south. But I think it is, we submit to you that deer are every bit as important as the sheep on there and they need to be protected. Thanks for your time. Any questions? Thank you.

Dave Black: DeLoss Christensen. Thank you Greg.

DeLoss Christensen: Got a call this morning from Byron Bateman, the chairman or president of SFW. SFW and their chapter heads who are the voting body for that organization met about two weeks ago. Mr. Bates was there, the houndsman representatives were there, and we went through this plan quite extensively. And Mr. Bateman apologized that he can't be here this evening. He asked me to tell you that SFW chapter heads unanimously support the plan as it has been written by the Division tonight. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you DeLoss. That's all the comment cards, I believe. Is that correct for this section?

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? I guess it's my understanding, correct me if I'm wrong, we're talking about 2015 and then in the meantime we're going to open the plan up again, right, and meet with all these parties of interest? So the results of that plan would come forth in 2016?

Bill Bates: Right, we'll bring those before you next year after the cougar advisory board meets and they revise the plan. And I do apologize that we weren't able to get a good review of it done this year. We just had some personnel issues where it didn't happen. And unfortunately, you know, that's where we are right now. But yeah, we're looking at a 2014-2015 season and then for the 2015-2016 season we'll hopefully we'll have the new plan in place.

Dave Black: Now with that committee that's working on that, is that committee set or are there opportunities, for instance we have a new group apparently in southern Utah, the Pine Valley Friends, is there ?

Bill Bates: We haven't put that together yet. We'll get through this, Leslie's only been on less than a month so . . . You know John left fairly abruptly and we just haven't, we're just getting started on that so . . .

Dave Black: Thank you Bill. Any comments? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I'd just kind of like to hear from Rusty, he's on this mule deer committee, if anything about lions is being addressed through that committee as I told it would be.

Rusty Aiken: Uh, it has come up with the population strategies. It's basically with the uh, whatever the uh, whatever the cougar plan dictates pretty much is how it is. The population objectives, or the predator management plans I guess that dictate when more cougars are harvested or not. But it would be basically up to the cougar plan, predator plan.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, one of the things that came up last, and one of the reasons that this was reopened, was that we requested that on the premium deer units that they be treated like the bighorn sheep units and have unlimited tags. This is the point I was trying to make and it was supposed to be discussed at the mule deer meetings on whether or not we are going to put any emphasis on these premium units that we clout as far as any cougar management, especially for them.

Rusty Aiken: I don't know if that's been discussed Sam. Yeah, we've still got several meetings.

Dave Black: Any other comments from the RAC? Okay, Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Just addressing Greg's comments on the Pine Valley. Where I've lived down there all my life and have friends who's fathers and uncles have been guides, 17 tags on those 2 hunts is awfully small for a unit that big. I mean that unit runs from Cedar City to St. George and everything west of the border. It's a huge area with a lot of deer and a lot of cougars. And I don't know that I'm qualified to propose how many we increase it but my recommendation is 17 is awfully small for that unit

Dave Black: As your thinking about putting together a motion, there's a couple of things I just wanted to bring up to remind you, there's some discussions here tonight about requiring GPS locations on every harvest, there was discussions on adding back into the plan the female quota, and then we had the presentation on the Pine Valley unit to increase the number of tags to 25. Did I miss anything else? Did I miss something DeLoss? Please, please come to the mic and state your name again just so we get it in

the minutes.

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood, Utah. Sam, let me kind of explain to you a little more about the mule deer committee and where we are at. I'm on the committee as well with Rusty. We have gone through different phases of the plan. We're finished with the population discussions. We've finished talking about predators. If you want that issue addressed by that group you'll need to become proactive in communicating that specific need with the chairman of that committee, Mr. Shannon. Because we will not be talking about that any more unless you create that discussion, it won't come up in our meeting. Does that? Okay.

Dave Black: Thank you DeLoss. Okay, are we ready to formulate a motion?

Dale Bagley: One question. Do we know how many permits there were for Pine Valley last year?

Teresa Griffin: There was 12 on the entire unit last year, so were increasing from 12 to 18. And just so you know what harvest has looked like for the last few years, last year we had 12, we only killed 10. Back in 2011 we did reach the quota when it was 15 but other than that we haven't even been meeting the permits that we have allocated. So that's why we thought if we split it into two units and raised it to 18 that would be ample.

Sam Carpenter: Are these were all quota tags, true?

Teresa Griffin: In the past the Pine Valley has been a split.

Dave Black: Bill, did you have a comment?

Bill Bates: Yeah, I hope it's okay to ask this. I forgot to address the female sub-quota issue when I was giving my presentation and if it would be okay to just explain.

Dave Black: Please do while we're trying to get a proposal.

Bill Bates: By changing to a 3 year rotation on permits to an annual, and also by including, as I stated in the presentation, we did consider all females in our recommendations this year, we did look at the 40 percent level rather than just the 17 to 22 percent. By doing it, if we still had a female sub quota we would be giving double protection to cougars because it's repetitive. And so we would oppose the female sub quota if you go with what we've recommended tonight.

Sam Carpenter: Bill, so currently the, in order to increase tags female harvest is above 20 percent we increase 10 percent? 23 percent we increase 20 percent? This is all in that plan and it's very confusing.

Bill Bates: It is. But we need to go through and change the plan. And hopefully the new cougar advisory board will come up with something that is understandable for us.

Sam Carpenter: And the only thing mule deer are in here is if a unit gets severely low or like 85 percent, I don't remember the exact number, that we will make it a predator management.

Bill Bates: Right, there's 2 different criteria: one is if it's, I believe its an 85 percent over a three year period . . . I should have memorized those before I came.

Kevin Bunnell: So the confusion here is that that's not addressed in the cougar plan, that's part of the predator management policy. And what the predator management policy says is that if adult survival drops below 85 percent on an average over 3 years then that's a trigger to put a unit into a predator management, or if it drops below 80 percent on a single year that's another trigger to consider a unit to go into a predator management. So that's always been a confusing issue. The predator management policy is kept separate from the cougar management plan with good reason because it's, it adds confusion but it also takes some of the, it allows some of the biology to be considered more in the plan and separates the predator side of that issue. More than one way to skin a cat. That's the way we've decided to do it and maybe it's the right way, maybe it's not.

Bill Bates: And we're comfortable with our recommendations. The same people that manage cougars in the state manage deer and that's why we came up with what we did.

Dave Black: Are you ready Sam? Are you going to make the?

Sam Carpenter: I'll make motion that we accept cougar management plan revision and 2015 recommendations as presented.

Dave Black: Okay. Period?

Sam Carpenter: Period.

Rusty Aiken: No GPS?

Sam Carpenter: No GPS. I'm going to let these guys see if they want to amend.

Rusty Aiken: I'll second.

Dave Black: Too late. We have a motion for accepting the plan as presented and a second by Rusty. Do we have discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: Because this is cougars and it's confusing, this is getting opened back up next, when is it getting opened back up again? So you guys can go through and make this next year?

Kevin Bunnell: So I think it's fair to day that this year, because of the changes we had in personnel and whatnot, um, hopefully Bill will won't get too mad at me for this, I think this year's recommendation could be classified as a Band-Aid to buy us a year in order to do what the Board asked us to do and we failed to accomplish this year because of some extenuating circumstances. Next year I think you'll see a much more extensive revision of the plan, with all the interested parties involved.

Dave Black: Okay, if we don't have any further discussion we're going to vote on the motion. All those in favor? It looks like it passes unanimous. It has a lot of discussion. Unanimous.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept the cougar management plan revisions and 2015 recommendations as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, um, let's move on to the next item.

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations (action) 2:04:51 to 2:07:01 of 3:03:33

- Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you Bill. Any questions from the RAC? Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: The February 8 closing, does that seem early? I mean aren't they after good hides? Won't the hides still be good for a month or so later?

Bill Bates: The February closing, that extends, that has been that way since 1980 as well. We've varied a few weeks, backwards and forwards depending on how bobcats are doing. And basically it's based a lot on the trend of cottontail rabbits because you know bobcats track cottontails. But we range from as short as a 4-week season, but the second Saturday in February is the latest we've ever gone. And I know we've had some discussions, the Utah Trappers Association has recommended we go later because they feel that we can get more tawns if we trap latter. I remember years ago I did research when I was a furbearer biologist and at that time the percent of females in the harvest tended to trend upwards the longer the season went which is a little bit counterintuitive. We looked at that question again this year since we're they're going to have that proposal tonight and we didn't find any significant difference in the uh, you know, in changes in ages or sexes at the end of the season versus the first of the season. So I guess it might have just been an artifact of our data previously and over long-term maybe it wouldn't hold out. But I think according to plan we would like to stick with that season length. If it was moved forward or back that's within the RAC's and Board's prerogative but we don't want to lengthen the season any more than we have to.

Rusty Aiken: So what you're saying is if we had it two weeks later maybe take two weeks off in November.

Bill Bates: Two weeks off the front end. But on the other hand the trade off has always been the houndsman want to get out and hunt bobcats over the Thanksgiving holiday and so that's why we've started in November just prior to Thanksgiving to give them that opportunity. And also, you know, a lot of kids are out of school, you know if they're going to college and they like to trap from during the Christmas break, so you know some of them start as early as Thanksgiving getting their traps out. So it's a tradeoff both ways. The pelts are prime during that entire length of the season.

Dave Black: Do we have any questions down at this end? Okay, we'll turn time to the audience for questions.

Questions from the public:

None.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: All right, it looks like we'll go to the cards. Again, we have a number of cards. There's only one that wants to address from Utah Trappers, and that is Kent.

Kent Fowden: Again, Mr. Chair, RAC, we as the Utah Trappers Association supports the proposal as a whole. However, we would propose an extension, and ask support in proposing the extension. And our

rational is we believe that through selective harvest it would actually benefit females and kitten survival rates. The toms are more active the later in the season you go. And most trappers prefer, as the houndsman prefer to go after the large toms, most trappers prefer to go after them selectively, bigger toms. We believe that that would be the case in this. I don't know about the historical data. I can go back to some of the old (unintelligible) boys if you want to use the old school stuff and go back to 70 or 80 years and they'll tell you that that will happen with the harvest; and these are seasoned cat trappers. We do believe that through selective harvest most of the trappers would prefer to turn a kitten loose to go after a larger tom. They would prefer to turn a tid belly loose to go after a larger tom. It's just the name of the game. And therefore like I say, we believe that it would promote selective harvest, more selective harvest ultimately helping out the females and juvenile survivability rate. Again, just one comment, the mature toms that they're after are more active later in the season. So we would ask that you support a two-week extension. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. For the record I have ten additional cards. Each of these in general states that they support the Utah Trapper Association in their comments, which also includes their recommendation to extend the hunt 2 weeks at the tail end of the season. And that looks like all the comment cards to come forward.

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC?

Sam Carpenter: That spurs a question, how does the Division feel about 2 week extensions?

Bill Bates: Well Leslie's not here to talk to tonight but I think that you need to weigh the desires of the houndsman against the trappers. I think that certainly something that's possible to extend it 2 weeks as long as you keep the season length is fine but just realize that how you move it you're affecting a different part of the clientele that uses the resource. So that's your job as, biologically we can do it, socially you got to figure out who you're benefiting.

Sam Carpenter: It looks like houndsman left. Is there anybody here to represent them?

Brian Johnson: I have a question. Is there a reason why we just can't lengthen it? I know you kind of talked about it but is there like a legislative reason we can't just tack on 2 weeks?

Bill Bates: There's not a legislative reason, although the plan calls for that season length. But I think you need to take a look at, we went to pretty huge jump to go from 3 tags, or 3 permits per person to 6. When you're going from a cap of 4,600 to you know, what are we going to sell this year, 15- 20,000? You know, I don't know. We've been trying to guess how many we're going to sell this year. So, do we have the bobcat resource to support that plus 2 more weeks? Personally as my recommendation as a biologist is, you know, I think we ought to go with the recommendations we've made. I would be very uncomfortable adding 2 more weeks given the drastic change we're making just with doubling the number of permits per person and more importantly going to an unlimited cap. That is huge. So if we would have been 3 with a limit of 4,600 I'd say make it 10 weeks longer, I don't care.

Brian Johnson: Yeah I see what you're saying.

Bill Bates: But with the changes we're making, no I do not support adding 2 weeks on. But if you want to adjust it that's up to you guys. It's a social issue.

Brian Johnson: I have a question for these guys that trap. Do you guys actually turn those things loose if it's not the one you want? You guys are just bragging now? Because I tried trapping and couldn't catch any.

Dave Black: Okay. Please come to the mic. Restate your name again so that we have it.

Kent Fowden: Kent Fowden, Utah Trappers. One thing, the data over the years has proven we've that we've yet to harvest more than 3,400 cats. So I just wanted to shed light on that. Even with 6 tags they haven't . . .

Brian Johnson: How long have they had 6 tags? Oh this is the first?

Kent Fowden: It's been off and on. It's been decreasing for the last, how many years ago was it, do you recall?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, I think about, 4 or 5 or 6 years ago we had, you know, it was when we had 6 tags per individual was the last time. But I will point out Kent, and just to put in context the comment you made, it was the year after we trapped 3,500 that we ended up having to reduce tags down to, you know, from 6 and start moving down because the matrix had dropped after we did harvest that many. True, that's the most we ever harvest but the data indicated that we did harvest that many, we impacted the population. And that's not the only reason; it was also the time that rabbits started crashing and everything else. Lots of things started happening right then. So it's probably not the only reason but it did probably contribute.

Rusty Aiken: Kent. So if you had your option of not changing it or moving it 2 weeks later into December and later in February, which would you guys prefer?

Kent Fowden: Well that's kind of a tricky question because there are other people that enjoy the harvest. I can't speak for the houndsman. There's other sports, there's callers, for the same reason, they like to get out on Thanksgiving. It's not just the trappers that are harvesting these cats, there are callers, there's a multitude of people that are harvesting. So I can't speak to them. I just think there's a balance, or there could be a balance. Be it a week extension, just something to allow an opportunity to exercise more of a select harvest.

Sean Kelly: Dave, I just have a comment. Looking at this like a biologist, a lot of times you make a change, what you do is you look at years to come and see how that changes, what happens. When you start piling change upon change a lot of times you kind of lose that. And so I think it's kind of, my comment I guess is that it's probably too much in one year to start adding too many things like that or you might not know what Bill's proposing now is going to work out or not. So I guess I would be kind of a little bit leery about having that additional season change to what's already been proposed.

Dave Black: Okay, good comment. Are we ready to put a motion?

Rusty Aiken: I'd like to make a motion to accept the recommendations of the DWR on the bobcat with the exception of adding one week to the close date on the hunt.

Kevin Bunnell: Is that for bobcat and all the other furbearer stuff?

Rusty Aiken: Just bobcat.

Kevin Bunnell: But your recommendation to accept the proposal is for all the furbearer recommendations with the exception of adding one week to the bobcat.

Rusty Aiken: Correct.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on Rusty's motion?

Sam Carpenter: I seconded.

Dave Black: We have a second by Sam. Do we have discussion on the motion? Brian.

Brian Johnson: I just want to be clear, you're talking about adding 7 calendar days to that, you're not taking that off the front you're just adding 7 calendar days.

Rusty Aiken: Yes.

Dave Black: Any further discussion? Okay, let's have a vote. All those in favor? Do you have a count? All those opposed? 5 to 3, is that correct? It looks like the motion carries 5 to 3. Motion carries

Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat harvest recommendations as presented by the division with the exception that the bobcat season be extended by one week at the end of season. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried 5 in favor, 3 opposed (Brian Johnson, Sean Kelly, Clair Woodbury opposed.

Dave Black: Okay, the next action item is the additional turkey transplant sites, and Jason Robinson will present that.

Additional Turkey Transplant Sites (action) 2:20:21 to 2:22:43 of 3:03:33
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Kevin Bunnell: So just to be clear, what you're being asked to do is accept your own proposal. It should be pretty easy. Which was accepted unanimously when you gave it to us.

Dave Black: Okay; now I guess just to follow protocol is there any questions from the audience?

Dale Bagley: I have a question. Why do we have to accept public comment on areas that are already historically having turkeys in them and have had turkeys for years? Why do we need to have a comment period to transplant turkeys to supplement a flock that's there? I guess is what my question is.

Jason Robinson: So through wildlife code that's established, any time we move big game, turkeys or sensitive species the requirement by law is to have that go through the RAC and Board process as well as this RDCC process. So that's the stipulation that's in place already that we've done in the past and will continue to do. And it includes both existing sites and new sites. So anytime we move birds or big game or other species to a site then we take it through that process.

Kevin Bunnell: So the answer Dale is because the legislature said so and that's who our boss is.

Jason Robinson: That's the short sweet answer, thanks Kevin.

Cordell Pearson: So when you transplant the goats from the Tushers over to the Dutton you have to go through this comment period?

Jason Robinson: I'll let Kevin address that.

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, when we made the proposal to move, we didn't move them from the Tushers to the Dutton, we actually moved them from Willard Peak to the Dutton. Yes, it did go through the RDCC process. Anytime we move, like Jason said, any big game species, any sensitive species, or turkeys we have to go through this comment period or the RDCC process.

Dave Black: Any additional comments? We don't have any cards.

Questions from the public:

None.

Comments from the Public:

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: I just suggest that when you make your motion that you make the correction of Birch Creek in the motion so we get that on the record.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, I will make the motion that we accept DWR's proposal as presented except for the change in the name, it should be Birch Creek.

Dave Black: Do we have a second? We have a second from Layne. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? It passes unanimous.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept the additional turkey transplant sites as presented by the division with the correction of Birch Creek, which had been listed as Birchville. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay on this next item Kevin has asked that he give us some information prior to Jason's presentation.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, so just briefly. This is a little bit different than I've ever seen in a RAC meeting. What we've got here is the Forest Service came to us a while ago. A lot of you are familiar, there's been this big Monroe Mountain working group that's been working on things for quite a while and with the objective of increasing aspen on Monroe Mountain which when aspen gets increased everything wins. There's more forage for livestock, there's better deer and elk habitat. It's a good thing all around. But given the regulations that the Forest Service has to follow they have to take this through a NEPA process

And because wildlife are part of it and they don't have management authority over wildlife they asked if prior to going through their own public process if they could get an endorsement essentially of a document that's been worked out by this Monroe Mountain working group that deals with when and where are we going to control, and how might we control elk to support aspen in a very short term basis. And so what you've got, Jason will present a presentation. There was a letter that I hope you saw in your packet that was written for the Board to then submit if this all gets through the process the Wildlife Board chairman will sign that letter. And then they can, the Forest Service will then have that through their own public process to say, you know, we've worked with the management agency and they're at least supporting in concept what we're proposing. So with some of that background, and Jason may cover all that again, but just because this is a little bit different we're kind of introducing why we're doing this. And with that I'll turn the time over to Jason.

Monroe Mtn. Aspen Restoration (action) 2:27:33 to 23:48:04 of 3:03:33
-Jason Kling, Forest Service
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the board? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I just have a question. Is the thinning that's going on there just to the west of Indian Peak, is that part of this program? That's going on right now or is that a commercial program?

Jason Kling: No. Well it is an aspen project. It was through a separate NEPA process that occurred 4 or 5 years ago. And so there is a few projects that we're currently implementing in the neighborhood of 2-3, 4 thousand acres is the scale, Oxford being one of them out there by Indian Peak being another one. This EIS that we're looking at, instead of being 2, or 3, or 4 thousand acres we're talking more like 40, or 50 thousand acres over the next decade.

Kevin Bunnell: But that is an aspen project?

Jason Kling: Yep, yeah.

Sam Carpenter: Once these trees reach 6 feet, or whatever it is that your proposing what benefits from the aspen after they've grown that much and they get out of reach as far as feeding goes? Do they eat the leaves when they fall in the fall or, you know, what benefit does wildlife or the cattle get from the aspens after they reach that point?

Jason Kling: Yeah, and so even, and so aspen are continually growing. And so even though you get one flush that's 6 feet or taller there's going to be other aspen that are growing that are less than 6 feet tall. And they do like to eat the leaves. Aspen is also an eco system that provides for great grasses, and forbes, and cover, and hiding; it's more than just the aspen leaves.

Cordell Pearson: have you considered or talked about what's going to happen October 6th when the spike hunt opens on the Dutton. Are you going to?

Kevin Bunnell: Have you considered, or have you talked about what's going to happen October 1st, or October 6th when the spike hunt opens on the Dutton and you have 3 or 400 elk crossing Kingston Canyon going to the Monroe and there is no hunts on the Monroe because they voted down the spike

hunt? Have you talked about that? Are you going to present this to the big game board?

Jason Kling: I'm going to let Kevin help me with. That's kind of out of my Forest Service.

Kevin Bunnell: That's probably out of Jason's (unintelligible) a little bit. Um, let me just explain how I picture this process happening. First of all we're probably 3 to 5 years down the road before anything gets proposed. Is that fair based on before projects hit the ground because of the process you guys have to go through?

Jason Kling: Yeah, to get through the NEPA process and then we know that we've got to do some mechanical ahead of the prescribed fire. It takes some prep time for those mechanical. So you have 3 to 5 years down the road for . .

Kevin Bunnell: So say we're 5 years from now and they've gone through the NEPA process and everything is approved and they have a proposal for a 6,000 acre burn on a portion of the Monroe. What the RAC might see in that case is a proposal for the Division that says, if this burn takes place and if the thresholds are crossed we want the authority from the RAC and intimately from the Board to implements X number of cow tags in this specific area. But if one, the burn never happens, or two, the thresholds are never crossed we would never implement that. So it's a way to give us the protection, given the system we have which has about a year to 18 month lag to get that lag out of the system so that we can be responsive as Jason says, but do it in a way . . .The two things that the Division and the sportsman insisted on with this document is A: you've got to do big projects. You've got to do projects that are at the scale of 5,000 acres, not 500 acres. And B: we're not going to do anything preemptive. Certainly we support the idea of more aspen but there's a . . . Burns are often planned and or are planned a lot more often than they're implemented. And sometimes, you know, a particular burn it may be proposed and it's 5 years later before it's actually implemented. So we didn't see the, or would not support the idea of preemptively removing elk when nothings going to happen for potentially something might happen for 5 years. So this was the system that was proposed. It gives everybody the flexibility. It protects the resources that we have out there for sportsman. It's a temporary thing. And I guess the bottom line is in the end the more aspen habitat that we can create on Monroe Mountain, and anywhere in Southern Utah or the west, you know, benefits wildlife. And it benefits livestock. It's just a more productive eco system so it's worth taking a short term hit for a long term benefit is essentially what we're talking about. And that's, that's kind of the concept that the Forest is asking the RAC and eventually the Wildlife Board to endorse, but we've had to walk a little bit of a tight plane here because the last thing that the Division wants to do is undermine the Board's authority by attaching it to a federal process and so we've been very careful in the way that letter was written so that it's very clear that the Forest Service doesn't have the authority to call for a cow hunt. And anything that happens will come back through the RAC and Board process but it's this process, or the concept of doing this that they're asking for you guys and the Wildlife Board to endorse. Is that?

Jason Kling: Yep, right on.

Layne Torgerson: Just a clarification, what we're asking for from the RAC committee tonight is just an endorsement?

Kevin Bunnell: Just an endorsement; a recommendation to the Wildlife Board for an endorsement.

Layne Torgerson: Yeah. So we're basically going to, we're endorsing the Forest Service in this plan that they have in place.

Jason Kling: And endorsing that threshold document.

Kevin Bunnell: Endorsing the letter that was in your packet, essentially.

Dave Black: DeLoss, I know you're on the committee if you want to make a clarification that would be fine.

Questions from the public:

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood, Utah. Cordell let me try and answer your specific question more specifically if I could. One of the things that the work group had to do was be unanimous. Now you saw that list. That's a lot of different people and different interests and personalities. And this thing had to be unanimously supported by everybody. We all wanted aspens treated but then we all wanted to make sure that we didn't get hurt by doing so, and we think we did that. But here's what's going to happen how, when the Forest Service goes to NEPA there's going to be people who don't want that aspen work done. And they're going to ask why did you do this? Why didn't you do that? How come you're not doing this? And one of the questions from the sportsman's prospective is how are you going to keep those elk unfenced out of those aspens? How are you going to make sure that those elk don't mow down that entire reseed effort? So we had to develop a way without giving the impression that the Forest Service could just go in and kill them. That was the challenge, how can we satisfy those anti-hunters, those people who are going to oppose this plan and stop that aspen work from being done, how can we prepare this so that they can't come back and say the elk are going to destroy the work and destroy the aspens? So we couldn't give them just a blank check to say kill all our elk; and we wouldn't. So we had to say to them it has to go through the RACs and it has to go through the Board. And can you give us some small percentage, if necessary, of elk to be taken at strategic times to make sure that the elk stay off that reseed before it's up high enough that they cannot ruin it? So when those elk come over from the Dutton, that you're talking about, if they are in fact destroying that aspen reseed then Kevin though the authority of the RAC and the Board can take some activity to make sure that they stop doing that and move to a different area on the mountain. Does that make sense?

Dave Black: Thank you DeLoss. Do we have any further questions from the RAC? Questions from the public?

Tudor Ogden: I'm Tudor Ogden. I'm the county commissioner for Sevier County. I've sat on this board for about three and a half years and it's been quite a process to get to this point. We are certainly in favor of this project that Jason has presented this evening. As DeLoss come on board a little bit later we've had a lot of heated debates over the wildlife. We've had a lot of debates over the livestock. Different things with the environmental groups. As you look down through that group there's a lot of people there that's represented. One thing that I would hope that this is going to go through because if it does this could actually be a model for other rangelands that are having the same kind of issues. The Monroe, I don't know how many of you are familiar with the Monroe Mountain, it's very unhealthy. It's in bad shape. We've got a lot of work to do. The Forest Service has to play catch up to make this happen because of all the litigation that they have to go through. This is one of the best shots we have to improve the mountain range up there and to make it viable. I think the forest is kind of like a garden; it needs to be taken care of. And I think for the wildlife side of things, for the livestock side of things, and for the overall recreation of that Monroe Mountain I think that we all need to be on board and support this effort. There was a question asked, what does an aspen look like if it's been browsed? Go up there and look. It's very bushy and they don't get very tall. And they only have 2 or 3 years to make that

effort and then they finally just give up. And a lot of those areas have been over grazed. A lot of them haven't been taken care of. A lot of it is because of the conifer over reach up there. We've got a lot of conifer; you've got a lot of subalpine fir that's really just a weed as far as I'm concerned on the mountain. So anyway, I would hope that you guys would support this effort and going forward. It's been a long process. I keep asking Jason, you know, how long, how much longer are we going to be? You know this has been three and a half years and I'm a little hopeful that this goes through and we don't have a lot of public comment problems when we get to that point. We're going to be able to take some action and get some things done up there. So anyway, we hope that you consider it, supporting this effort going forward. We appreciate the RAC, what you guys do, you're time that's spent to make things better for all of us. And also the DWR, I think there's a lot of efforts that go into that and we've had some good support from the DWR on this project as well. So anyway, that's what my pitch is and I hope we can have your support on this. Thank you. Are there any questions for me? I think Jason probably answered them all.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Um, we did have a comment card from Tudor. We want to make sure we have the audience covered. Do we have any other questions from the audience?

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Okay, we'll turn it over to the RAC. Are there any other comments as well? Well turn it over to the RAC for comments. If not we're ready to entertain a motion.

Sam Carpenter: Sounds like a really good plan. I hope it works. I make a motion to accept the aspen restoration plan as presented.

Layne Torgerson: I second it.

Dave Black: Okay, we have first a motion to accept the plan and a second. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? It looks like it's unanimous.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to support the aspen regeneration plan letter as presented by the Forest Service. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried Unanimously.

Other Business

Dave Black: Uh, as far as any other business goes please note that the next meeting is going to be in Richfield and it will be at the Snow College Sevier Valley Center at 7:00 pm. So that's September 9th, and we'll be discussing the fishing recommendations. It's been a long night. Same location.

Sam Carpenter: Before you beat that gavel, let me just remind everybody that if you want a hard copy to bring like we normally have you better let Stacy know or you're not going to get one.

Dave Black: Okay, thanks for your comment. I call this meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
July 30, 2014

Motion Summary

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

Turkey Depredation Rule—New Rule R657-69
MOTION: To accept the new Turkey Depredation Rule as presented.
Passed unanimously

Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
MOTION: To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule FY2015 as presented except that the initial bobcat permit be $5 and an additional $10 fee will be added when the pelt is checked in and sealed & to have the two cow elk permit be $100.
Failed unanimously

MOTION: To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented, except that the bobcat tag fee be based on the cost of the program. The fee will be the lesser of $15 or the cost of program administration.
Passed with one opposing vote

Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations
MOTION: To accept Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations as presented with the caveat that the harvest of female cougars be accounted for in the quota for all units, and that the harvest of females comprise no more than 40% of the harvest in all units including predator management plan units (but excluding limited entry areas and bighorn sheep areas), and require GPS locations on harvest data.
Passed with one opposing vote

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations
MOTION: To accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
Passed with one opposing vote

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah

July 30, 20143 ↜ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present	***Members Absent***
	Kevin Albrecht, USFS and Chairman
	Seth Allred, At Large
Sue Bellagamba, Environmental	
Blair Eastman, Agriculture	
Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson	
	Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official
Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental	
Todd Huntington, At Large	
	Derris Jones, Sportsmen
Karl Ivory, BLM representative	
Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen	
Christine Micoz, At Large	
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture	
Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor	

Others Present
Mike King

1) Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure
-Todd Huntington, Vice Chairman

Todd Huntington- I would like to welcome everyone out. I am Todd Huntington. I am the vice chair. I am filling in for Kevin. He is up to Washington State working on some forest fires up there. I hate it when he does that to me. Just by way of procedure reminders, if you have a comment that you would like to make, please fill out one of these yellow cards and bring it up to myself or Chris and we'll call you up here when it is your turn. If you're representing yourself you get 3 minutes. If you're representing an organization you get 5 minutes. Is that right? Or is that backwards? I think that is right. So we will begin with approving our agenda. Does anybody have any problems with the agenda?
Wayne Hoskisson- I will move to approve the agenda
Todd Huntington- We have a motion from Wayne to approve the agenda. Do you want to include the minutes also Wayne? I don't remember getting the minutes?
Wayne Hoskisson- I am ok with including the minutes.
Todd Huntington- Ok we will include the minutes as well. Do we have a second?

Chris Micoz- I will second it
Todd Huntington- Seconded by Chris. All in favor? Any opposed? That was unanimous.
Todd Huntington- Chris will give the wildlife board meeting update since Kevin isn't here and I wasn't at that one.

2) <u>Approval of the Agenda and Minutes</u> (Action)
- Todd Huntington, Vice Chairman

VOTING
Motion was made by Wayne Hoskisson to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Chris Micoz
Motion passed unanimously

3) <u>Wildlife Board Meeting Update</u>
-by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- Good evening, I will try to give an update from our Wildlife Board meeting that took place on June 5. That seems like a long time ago but I will do the best that I can. The Turkey Management Plan was accepted and approved as presented by the Division. The Turkey Transplant proposed list was also approved. They did add six sites that the Southern Region recommended. They added Mary's View Canyon, Birch Ville, City Creek, Mammoth Creek, and the upper stretches of the Sevier, Minersville and Coal Creek. The upland game recommendations passed unanimously. The use of game birds rule amendment passed unanimously. The last two items in entailed the waterfowl recommendations, which included allowing a crow hunt in Utah. At the meeting on June 5th there was quite a bit of discussion. A lot of people attended from both the sportsman side and a lot of the non- consumptive. Several hours of comments followed. The Wildlife Board ended up passing the Division's recommendations 3:2 and then just yesterday, an appeal to the decision was made. We have never seen that before as a state agency, but the rule allows that to happen. The non-consumptive group who were against the crow hunt appealed it and there was another hearing yesterday. We had several hours of comments. The Wildlife Board ended up with a motion to vote on that specific item in two different groups. One to take a look at it as a sport hunting perspective and then from a depredation hunt perspective. Dr. King made a motion to separate them and that motion was approved. They voted on the depredation hunt. And that passed 5:0. They then voted on the sport hunt and that again passed 3:2. On June 5th at the Wildlife Board meeting, the Utah Trial Hunter Program was approved and passed unanimously. At our RAC, and I mentioned this in an email to all of the RAC members a month or so ago, I actually believed it was right before this June 5th Wildlife Board meeting, I apologize for this, but as a Division I felt that we didn't understand exactly what the RAC's role was

pertaining to the Utah hunter trial program. This is a law that the legislature voted for and approved and it wasn't the RAC's role to approve or reject this Utah hunter trial program, but rather it was the RAC's role to shape it and to move the program within certain side boards that the legislative code had already been written for and set up. As an agency I apologize for not making that more clear. I felt that it wasn't clear from my voice and also in the presentation. If you remember our RAC rejected the Utah hunter trial program, and it really wasn't appropriate for our RAC to reject it. Rather we were supposed to shape it. I apologize for not understanding that role more clearly. After our RAC, they made adjustments to the presentation and that role was better defined in the other three RAC meetings throughout the state. The Wildlife Board certainly understood the role and the Wildlife Board approved it unanimously. Any questions?

Questions from the RAC

No questions from RAC

4) Regional Update
-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- It has been a good summer. We all have been working really hard. All of our sections have had some great projects and some great things going on. I will just touch briefly on all of the sections and some the projects that they have been working on. The aquatics section just got done surveying down on the La Sals. We haven't done that in several years. That was a good thing to get out there and look at some of the lakes and see what kind of fish are growing in the various waters. We have also been working on some of our endangered species. The bluehead suckers are one of our sensitive fish. We have been taking them out of Ferron Creek and will later take them out of Millsite Reservoir. The purpose of that is to supplement the population in the San Rafael River. Some of these fish have suffered because of the Seeley fire. Some of the runoff and the high sediment loads and the water conditions have affected some of the sensitive fish in the lower part of the San Rafael. Because of that we are taking some of the fish from Ferron Creek and Millsite and supplementing the population there. We also have a new trap up at Duck Fork Reservoir that we have just tested out this year and it has been a very, very successful. We have caught twice as many eggs than what we have usually caught, we catch fish in the trap and then we process the eggs and we have gotten twice as many eggs as we usually have. It has been very successful that way. The eggs are going to a hatchery
Conservation outreach has been busy. We have had several fishing events, including Free Fishing Day in June. We also worked with the forest service and some other partners and hosted a special needs fishing day. We had a kid's fishing day and in a few weeks we will have a fishing event at the Carbon County Fairgrounds Pond. We also have had several archery events going on. We had one in Moab and this was very successful. It was a family archery event where families come to the indoor archery range and learn how to shoot archery bows and arrows. That was very successful. We also have been to several

camps. It is that time of year when girl's camps and boy scout camp's and youth camps are active, and Brent and his team have been out there working and doing archery events and wildlife education events. We had a Bighorn Sheep Watch. We also had several birding groups working with the Moab birding group both at the Matheson Wetland Preserve and also at Desert Lake and most recently we hosted a bat night. We had about 15 people come from all over Utah. With our sensitive species biologists they caught bats and learned about bat biology.

The Habitat Section has been doing some great stuff of course this time of year, managing our WMAs. Some of those WMAs like Nash Wash, the Cunningham Ranch Area, the Gordon Creek area as well as some acres at Desert Lake and our Huntington Game farm. With water rights we actively grow crops for the benefit of the wildlife. We had a prescribed burn up at Cold Springs WMA up on the Tavaputs. The plan was to burn over 1,000 acres on the Division property and two different private land owners property's. The good news is that we got fire on the ground; the bad news is we only burned 270 acres. We would have liked to burn much more. We had to rely on the resources from the forest service and the BLM and Forestry, Fire and State Lands getting together. We had a very narrow burn window that depended on fuel mixture levels and stuff like that. We had a very short window to burn. In this case we had two or three days. The winds picked up one day and they had to stop. But we did burn 270 acres and that was exciting. That adds to some of the acres that they have burned three years prior. The last two years we haven't been able to burn at all. Prescribed fires can be very tricky because we have to have the right prescription. The fuel levels have got to be right, the weather has got to be right, and scheduling with the helicopter that helps light the fire that all as got to work in there as well. But this year we had 270 acres burned so it was good. In the same area up on Cold Springs were we have done some aspen work and more mechanical work. We are building a disclosure in the area to compare to the area that we didn't seed. This is to determine if we need to invest in seed in the future on those areas. Tomorrow we are going on a field tour and everyone here is invited. We are leaving at 7 am. Meet at the division office at 7 am. The local sage grouse working group will be touring the Tavaputs Plateau specifically Butch and Jeannie Jensen's property. They are going to look at some of their habitat that has got up there for sage grouse.

Law enforcement officers have been busy. As you probably saw on the news, the Rainbow Coalition had a big party here in Utah. Their annual event was near Heber City. We sent law enforcement officers up to that area to support the local Sheriffs and other officers in their efforts. Recently we have had three of our officers go through first responders training courses and so they are even more qualified than ever to help on community needs that require first responders and then a few of our officers have recently got back from a conference in Reno Nevada, where they attended the North American Wildlife Enforcement officer's meeting. And finally our Wildlife Section had been busy. July is the month that they classify elk. Our biologists have been out on all of our mountains in areas that we have elk and have been doing some classifications. Our sensitive species biologist Tony Wright and his crew have been out the last month trapping burrowing owls and helping with that research. Our biologists have also been on the Monroe Mountain in the Southern Region helping out with a pretty important deer study, a fawn survival study and a coyote study. Looking at fawn survival and the coyotes and the densities and how they relate to each other. We all have been working really hard and it has been a great summer so far. If you have any questions I will try and

answer them.
Todd Huntington- Thanks Chris, We will move onto the Turkey Depredation with Jason Robinson

5) Turkey Depredation (Action)
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Wayne Hoskisson- It says 10% documented turkeys on private property with a maximum of 15 vouchers. Do you have places where there are 150 turkeys on private property?
Jason Robinson- There are areas in the northern part of the state where we have documented up 400 on one land owner's property. And so we wanted to give that land owner the ability to harvest enough birds to get them off the property and back on to either forest or state land. So, yes we do have areas, probably not in this part of the state that I am aware of, but other parts of the state.
Todd Huntington- Thanks Jason, Are there any questions from the RAC?
Karl Ivory- What is an example of damage being done?
Jason Robinson- There has been a variety. Most of them getting into hay or something like that. If you get a high concentration of a month or two of where they scratch and break the bales open to get the grain and other things, that seems to be the most common, but it is rare. It is pretty rare to have turkey depredation issues.
Trisha Hedin- Your first line of defense is to relocate. Because from being from this area, in general, we a lack of turkeys and we transplant turkeys into this area and they disappear, so we keep putting them in there. I know the NWTF keeps putting them in, for example, Pack Creek. So to me it seems odd that we are talking about putting out depredation tags, so that is the first line of defense is to capture and relocate, right?
Jason Robinson- We probably will try and reeducate the land owner on trying to increase the tolerance for turkeys first of all. Probably hazing would be the next step, and then trap and transplant. We want to try and move the birds because we have so many areas this part of the state.
Trisha Hedin- Right. Thanks.

Questions from the Public
Todd Huntington- Questions from the audience? This is the time for questions and then next will be comments so this time is questions.
No questions from public.

Comments from the Public
No comments from the public.

RAC Discussion

Todd Huntington- Comments? We did not get any cards on this particular item. Ok comments from the RAC?
Todd Huntington- Or a motion.
Karl Ivory- I will make a motion on this. That we accept the depredation rule, the new rule R657-69 as presented by the division.
Todd Huntington- ok I have a motion made by Karl. To accept the new turkey depredation rule r657-69 as presented. Do we have a second?
Chris Micoz- Second
Todd Huntington—Second by Chris Micoz.
Todd Huntington- Any questions on the motion? All in favor? Any opposed? It is unanimous

VOTING
Motion was made by Karl Ivory to accept the Turkey Depredation Recommendations as presented.
Seconded by Chris Micoz
Motion passed Unanimously

6) <u>Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 (Action)</u>
-Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>

Darrel Mecham- Two cow permits? Did I just not catch that at any of the previous meetings?
Kenny Johnson- No in fact that is what we are doing tonight is establishing a fee for it and then at some point in the future we will bring out another rule through the RACs that says here is how we plan to implement two cows if we go to that as an option. So it's not in any work plan yet. It is just an idea for a new opportunity and a new option to us in areas where there is probably lower access and higher elk densities.
Trisha Hedin- So what is the current cow? $45? So why not just double it.
Kenny Johnson- That is a valid question. I think the idea is to discount it a little bit to provide some incentive for someone. If we need someone to go inside and take two cows it is a lot of work. Maybe not the most glamour's hunt but still just provide a little bit of an incentive.
Blair Eastman- So what you're trying to do is just get ready for something that is going to come up later?
Kenny Johnson- Yes. With that one.
Todd Huntington- Do we have problem Bighorn Sheep right now? More specifically Desert Bighorn Sheep?
Kenny Johnson- We'll have to ask Bill. I don't know if we have any problem ones right now.

Todd Huntington- I would be shocked and amazed if that is the case. Especially Desert sheep.
Bill Bates- This isn't like a depredation problem or something like this. This is a problem where bighorns are moving into areas where there is domestic sheep and we don't want them to come in contact with them and if they're in those areas we call it a no tolerance zone. You know that is kind of a bad word to use right now, because of things that happened with cougars up in Sandy but basically we don't want to have Bighorn Sheep where there are domestic sheep. So this last year we had to remove 11 on the South Book Cliffs just over past the Nash Wash area. I believe it was maybe two rams? And the rest ewes? We had the sunglow sheep herd over by Torrey. Those sheep hung around for a couple of years before we were finally able to remove them. We just don't want to risk those animals coming in contact with domestic sheep and then going back in and mixing with the wild sheep.
Chris Micoz- So you would rather give hunter's the opportunity to take a Sheep?
Bill Bates- This gives somebody an opportunity to do it. It also gives us a chance in the future to manage bighorns, if we ever get to the point to where we don't have places to move them. For example the Zion Unit which is a Desert Bighorn unit and also the Nine Mile unit with Rocky Mountain bighorn. Those populations have grown to the point that we need to move animals. Fortunately right now we have transplant sites, but if we ever get to the point we don't, we would rather go in and remove some ewes for population management rather than let it crash.
Todd Huntington- That would be a great day Bill if our populations were that big. That would be a great day.
Chris Micoz- Nevada opened a ewe hunt this year.
Bill Bates- They did. That's the idea. And Darrel with the two cow permit, that is just something to have just in case we need it in the future. We have some large ranches that are not in the CWMU program and they have a lot of million dollar homes up there that they don't allow hunting access. Then they go down to winter down by Heber city and do a lot of damage. So we are just trying to develop a tool that we can use in situations like that. So it is just in the planning stages and you guys will have your input on them.
Chris Micoz- So why not allow, instead of one hunter get two permits, have more hunters? What is the reasoning?
Bill Bates- Blair, would you like to address that?
Blair Eastman- I could jump in on this, but I am not going to.
Bill Bates- The problem is the amount of hunting pressure. The more people you put in there, the more stirred up the elk can get. So we are thinking that if one person had two permits and they go in there, they have a chance to shoot two. It just increases the opportunity. Fewer people, higher success rate. Chances are that somebody is going to shoot one and they will be done. In most cases I think.
Blair Eastman- Bill, my comment on that would be that we already allow two cow elk tags per hunter per year right?
Bill Bates- We do.
Blair Eastman- So why do this? Why not have your hunter go in and get two individual tags and hunt two separate units or two separate areas versus a tag that just gives you a permit that allows you for two tags? So are you restricting yourself to one unit by doing this or hunt area?
Bill Bates- Yes, it would be.

Blair Eastman- Then you can kill your two cows in one area and not go someplace else?
Bill Bates- Right. That person is in that area, let's say they are able to get access on private land, and then they could take two elk there from that unit. They will be unit-specific not general two cow permits state wide.
Blair Eastman- Right. Let's just say they put in for Range Creek and they get two cow tags for Range Creek, does that mean on our 500 cow tags we have got a 1,000 cow tags coming? If this was to be a unit. What is going to happen here?
Bill Bates- I think that initially I don't envision it being used that much on public land units. More on private land units. Like up on Ogden and the Rich and even the Wasatch West with those problems up there. I don't foresee it really taking off down here. That will be up to you guys to determine the future if the elk populations grow much more.
Wayne Hoskisson- About the bobcat proposal, so this $15 fee that's a self- reported thing? They pay $15 per bobcat that they trap?
Kenny Johnson- Yes, per permit.
Wayne Hoskisson- So they pay $15 for a permit that there is no limit on the number of bobcats that they can catch on that permit?
Kenny Johnson- They actually had a limit of three per person this year and you had to pay $5 for all three or each of the permits before you go and trap.
Wayne Hoskisson- I was just wondering if you ever thought of tying this fee into the pelt price? Seems like that is a pretty good bargain for a $400 pelt.
Kenny Johnson- It is probably a bargain but it would be kind of hard preparing our sales day. They go on sale typically October 1st. They sell first come-first served until they are gone. Establishing a moving target for the fee may be kind of hard. But really we just want to make sure that it is a zero sum day at the end of the day to make sure that we are covering our costs and we think this gets us a lot closer. It still probably doesn't cover the cost of the entire program statewide but it does get us closer than where we have been in recent years with the $5.
Todd Huntington- Any other questions from the RAC? OK we will have questions from the Public. Then we will get to your comments. Come up to this microphone in the middle. This section is questions.

Questions from the Public

Harvey Howard- I want to make sure that I understood that correctly. Are you estimating that you will sell 4,400 bobcat tags this year? Was that the number that I saw?
Kenny Johnson- That was the number that you saw. That was based on actual sales from last year. We know that number will go up a little bit this year, depending on what gets passed through the RAC.
Harvey Howard- My question was if you sold approximately 4,400 is that what it was? Is that where the cutoff was?
Kenny Johnson- 4,600
Harvey Howard- So to me that number is extremely misleading from what you're looking towards. Last year you could only get three bobcat tags. About half of the people that I know didn't get bobcat tags. Now you're going to make that or your proposal is to make that unlimited in the amount of people that can get bobcat tags and raise that to 6 bobcat tags per person. So to me those numbers that you put up there were pretty misleading.

Kenny Johnson- We are not trying to mislead. What we did was base our revenue projection months ago. We started looking at fees. We just based the revenue projection on actual. There is going to be a proposal for more bobcat tags. The revenue will increase some. I haven't spent a lot of time looking at the numbers but I think Bill has looked at them a little bit.
Bill Bates- We had unlimited tags before and the most that we have ever sold was 11,000 so this year I am anticipating it is going to be much closer to 11,000.
Harvey Howard- I just looked at them numbers and that didn't… (inaudible)
Bill Bates- we really can't guess. (Inaudible. Away from mic.)
Harvey Howard- So that number I was looking for was the 11,000 because that was the last time you were under a similar system that you're proposing?
Kenny Johnson- Right
Harvey Howard- Ok. Thank you.
Todd Huntington- Any other questions from the audience?
David Bronson- I was wondering about the two ewe tags. Is that going to be unit specific or is that going to be state wide?
Kenny Johnson- The two cow tags or the ewe tags? You said two ewe.
David Bronson- The ewe.
Todd Huntington- The ewe permits would more than likely be specific. Again we really don't know but we just want to be able to use that as an opportunity for more hunting.
Bill Bates- (away from the mic. Inaudible)
David Bronson- So you're going to hunt the ewes where you're having problems. Then on the bobcat is what I am understanding is the proposal now is not to have a quota?
Kenny Johnson- You'll see that one here in a few minutes. But I don't remember where it ended up? Is it unlimited?
Bill Bates- Yes.
Todd Huntington- Thank you. Any other questions from the audience? We will move into the comments.

Comments from the Public

Jerry Swasey- I think the $15 bobcat increase is a little expensive if you're going to go with six tags, because there is no guarantee that you're going to catch a cat or not. If you went to $10 that would be better than the $15, or just leave it where it is for that matter.
Todd Huntington-Thanks, Jerry. Brandon Butterfield and then Brandon Payne.
James Butterfield- My comment was on the fee for the tag and the comment on the $400 average for the bobcats. I was expecting $400 this last year because everybody said it was. I got $150 bucks. If you live in Moab, you have to get away from people. You're spending $1500 bucks just in gas. You have to drive an hour and get on your 4-wheeler and drive another hour just to get away from people. If you do what you're supposed to be doing, checking every 48 hours, you're not evening making gas money if you're trapping. You do it for teaching. I mostly like to do it so I get time with my kids. I don't want to pay more money for it. I really don't make any money doing anyways. There are some people that do get all of their cats. But if you know about trapping, and I am pretty sure that I know all of the guys that are really good at it, they get all of their cats but they work their butts off from daylight till dark to do it; and to do it right, you would be upside down if we have to pay more for our tags. I haven't made $400 for a cat for awhile.

That's just what I wanted to share.
Todd Huntington- Thanks James, Brandon Payne up next with Kent Fowden on deck.
Brandon Payne- I am representing myself as a trapper. I am opposed to the fee increase for bobcat tags. Was the number of tags sold last year 4,400?
Kenny Johnson- That was the number of tags from last year.
Brandon Payne- No, the number of tags that you guys sold was 4,700 and some tags.
Brandon Payne- So you sold close to 4,800 tags last year.
Kenny Johnson- Closer to 4,700
Brandon Payne- Ok so say 4,700 tags last year is what you sold. But the cap was 4,600 and you sold out last year. And you sold out the year before that. I just wanted to clarify how you came up with the 4,400
Kenny Johnson- That was the resident number that we sold last year.
Brandon Payne- Ok. I would like to propose that you hold off on increasing the bobcat fee this year and I propose 6 tags per person with no cap on the total of tags being sold. Let's just see how that plays out. If you end up selling 11,000 tags you're going to far exceed your projected revenue that you're hoping to get with your $10 increase. As far as an increase on non-residents, I don't know that I am opposed to that. But I am not a non-resident. As far as it looks like, we are making lots of money when we trap. Last year, three bobcats got $400 apiece. Gas is pushing $4.00 per gallon. Then we have a 48 hour trap check. We have to check those traps every two days. This information is taken from the state harvest bobcat statistics from 1982-2013. The average over those 31 years is 1.7 bobcats per trapper. The high or the highest it has ever got was in 2006-2007 and that was three bobcats per trapper. Just because we get six tags doesn't mean we are going to make ungodly amounts of money because we are going to catch six bobcats and $500-600 dollars apiece for them. That would be great but according to the DWR's information and according to my personal experience it's not looking that way. We are not doing it for the money; we are doing it for the chance to get out there and get our kids exposed to a recreation and hopefully we can offset some of our expenses. In the mean time. Like I have said I am opposed to the fee increase at this time because I would like to see how removing the cap on the tag plays out. I think you will get more than your revenue increase because of that. Thank you
Todd Huntington- Thanks Brandon, Kent Fowden is next with Sanford Randall on deck.
Kent Fowden (Utah Trappers Assoc.)-Thank you. I appreciate the time to speak with you. I am Kent Fowden and represent The Utah Trappers Assoc. I would ask for your support in holding off or denying this action at this time for various reasons. Most of what I feel is a knee jerk reaction to the fiasco that took place in October. I think the $15 was a random mistake and there is an appearance of capitalization on that mistake. There is no math yet. Last night Mr. Bates told us that he was going to do some investigation so we can understand the cost increase and things like that. But there is no hard math to substantiate tripling of the fee. Some sort of math should back it up in our opinion. The non-resident there again, we are not non-residents so we can't speak for them. The muskrat, the manager of the wildlife refuges have needed that tool for quite some time and I am pleased to see that on there. Their hands have been tied for years. Thank you.
Todd Huntington-Thanks Kent. Sanford you're up.
Sanford Randall- I would oppose the increase of the tags. The thing I have noticed is on the screen up there. The bottom bullet point was that pelts were $407 average. When you look at that, you think I am paying $5 for the tag and getting $407 for the pelt. Well, that

is assuming that the pelts are going to stay at that price. There has been many years that I was hoping that I could average a $100. I dare say that in 5 years from now when that price goes back down, we are not going to be here saying " oh we need to give the trappers a refund or we need to lower the tags because the pelt prices are lower". That's not going to happen. The other issue that I have is anytime that you see any public entity that is the gas company or anything that is making a price increase. They are usually making a price increase of 10% or something like that and there is usually a quite the public outcry. We are looking at a 200% increase on this fee. A 200% increase if you did that I any other business it would have an outrage from the public like nothing else. So it is ridiculous to me to see that we can have a 200% increase just because. First of all because there is no hard math behind it. There is no math behind it. The idea that the pelt prices are high is one of the reasons to do it. This is ludicrous to me, because that is not a constant. That is something that is not going to stay there. It is good right now but it won't stay there forever. I would suggest that we don't increase those tags. Thank you.
Todd Huntington- Thank You.
Bill Bates- If it would help, I have done a little bit of figuring. Kenny and I have talked a little bit and we have got a few numbers if that would help clarify things.
Todd Huntington- I think that would.
Bill Bates- Ok. The present permit fee was established in 1980 at $5. We have never increased the cost or the price on a bobcat permit. If you look at the cost of the program, we are spending about $100,000 per year on it.
Kenny Johnson- The average cost for the furbearer program in the last two years is about $115,500. That is without any administration or front counter time. I am not even sure if that includes the harvest survey times.
Bill Bates- Even if we do sell 11,000-15,000 permits or whatever it will be next year, there is still a fixed cost per bobcat that is harvested. If we anticipate the harvest will probably go up to around 3,300 next year or something like that, that was the last time we had unlimited permits, and we harvested about 3,300 bobcats and for those bobcats we take a tooth and have it aged and that is about $4.00 per bobcat. So the cost will go up has the harvest goes up. Last night one of the things that I committed to was maybe coming back and finding out what the actual cost was for the program and what is really happened from 1980 until now is other revenues, other hunting permits have subsidized the furbearer program as we are just trying to balance that out. Hopefully that helps.
Todd Huntington- Thanks Bill. I don't have any other comment cards from the public.
Kent Fowden (Utah Trappers Assoc.)- Just one thought that just came to mind is maybe you can take a look at putting an upfront fee on the tag, and apply the increase at the time of the tagging. That was just a thought. There is not a big investment for these guys up front. It is not a money making thing. Most of these guys do this to spend time with their families and pass on a heritage and a tradition. There is probably $600-700 dollars per pelt in costs honestly. It is just not what people think. Thank you.
Todd Huntington- Thanks.
Harvey Howard- That was going to be my recommendation. To leave the permit fee at $5 to allow the trappers to trap and then put your fee on your tagging operation at the time that it is tagged permanently, so that it covers trapping costs at that point. You know that the trapper has made a couple of dollars. Generally I have never seen any of them make any money after their gas. That would be my recommendation. And I just wanted to state that.

Todd Huntington- I don't have more cards so let's go to comments from the RAC.

RAC Discussion

Trisha Hedin- I have a couple of comments. Personally I think the cow elk the $45 is pretty cheap to fill my freezer, so I am not opposed to doubling that fee. But that is just a general comment. I grew up in a trapping family. My dad trapped in ordered to provide for us. And that was a bleak existence, I tell you what. I understand what these guys are talking about. I am also a little shocked by the huge increase, I would agree with you guys that an incremental increase is appropriate. I really like the idea of having a $5 fee up front and then maybe a $5 tag fee after that. And just from what I have seen, the pelt market is fluid. It also has to do with how you care for your pelts.
Wayne Hoskisson- What I was sort of suggesting is that you do it based on the pelts. Because if you're not getting very much money for a pelt, why pay so much money for your permit? In that perspective of a non consumptive user I don't see any benefit in trapping bobcats. I really don't care if there are permits for bobcats, so I have no problem with whatever the DWR thinks they need to recoup their costs.
Todd Huntington- Something I think we haven't talked about, and I am not an economist, but it seems to me that if we open this up to unlimited numbers, we are going to increase our harvest which decreases the price of the pelt. Supply and demand.
Bill Bates- I think there is some truth to that, but the pelt prices are set on a national basis and it is just whatever the going rate is. The market sets it and it can be anywhere. There is a lot more to it than just what the demand is for. That is what drives the price.
Todd Huntington- Any more comments from the RAC? Entertain a motion?
Trisha Hedin- I don't know how to modify the existing proposal, so maybe you guys can help me. Specifically on the bobcats I would motion that we keep the fee as such and maybe there is an additional tag fee upon turning in the jaw. I am not sure what the process is, is that right? An additional $5 fee upon that time to pay for the aging. That's my motion. Does that make any sense?
Todd Huntington- Now what about the rest?
Trisha Hedin- I would move that the cost for two cows is $90. I am not sure why it wouldn't be. That's my other motion.
Todd Huntington- Ok, so make the two-cow permit $90 instead of $80. We are okay with the bighorns.
Bill Bates- In the spirit of transparency, I believe a cow permit is $50 now and not $45. Is that correct?
Trisha Hedin- Oh, okay. I didn't know that. I didn't draw a cow tag.
Todd Huntington- Ok, so do you want to double that and make it an even c-note?
Trisha Hedin- make it an even $100. That seems like a good idea.
Todd Huntington- Maybe we can say double the existing cow fee. How does that sound.
Trisha Hedin- Sounds good
Todd Huntington- So you want to double the cows. The bighorn ewe tag is fine. The muskrat is fine. We want to propose that the bobcat stay at $5 for the permit and then add an additional $5 when you check it in or send it in?
Blair Eastman- What if we leave that at $10?
Todd Huntington- So Blair proposes that we leave the fee at $5 and upon sealing, add $10, and that way you're getting your $15. How do you feel about that? Do you want me

to try and restate that?
Trisha Hedin- Yes.
Todd Huntington- Trish made a motion for the bobcat fee to be split into two parts, $5 for the permit and $10 upon sealing the pelt. The two-cow permit to be double the current price, and all other fees remain as presented.
Blair Eastman- I second that.
Todd Huntington- Seconded by Blair Eastman. Any comments on the motion? All in favor?
Wayne Hoskisson- That seems to me that making that fee for the bobcats so complicated that you are actually adding to the cost of doing that?
Blair Eastman- You have got to check those in anyway.
Bill Bates- Wayne is right though from aspect TJ brought to my attention that it would really complicate things because right now our conservation officers or biologists are able to check those bobcats in the field and if they had to collect money they would have to be bonded and it would be not good. So we would increase the cost of the program.
Chris Wood- They would have to come to the regional office in Price.
Blair Eastman- Now what?
Trisha Hedin- Well how about we cut the difference and make a tag $7.50. Does it have to be a set number?
Blair Eastman- With that being the case, I have a couple of comments. If you look at the overall program and the funding it appears to me that elk and deer some of the big game carries a lot of these small programs and that does bother me. I think every program should cover its expenses. And really I have done a bunch of numbers based on 4,700, 4,600, 4,400, 11,000, 15,000 etc… you're not paying for the administrative costs. I am paying $980 a tag right now for my elk tags for the ranch. And I am paying a whole lot more for cow tags on my CWMU, so I am really struggling that you get to kill six bobcats and pay $90. I will support you on this, but I think you need to give a little bit to help cover those administrative costs and my recommendation would be that we give a little and you give a little and we come some place in the $10 figure. I still don't think that covers your costs though. I think you need to think about that as your going forward.
Chris Micoz- I have a comment. Any time you buy a permit or a tag to hunt or to fish there is no guarantee that you're going to be successful. And to me you do it for the love of it. Not to be successful every single time. So if I buy a deer tag and I go out and I shoot a deer. What I gain from that is the experience and a little bit of meat. But the excuse that it is costing me gas and traveling back and forth that is part of the experience and we all know that going into the sport. So I don't think that should be part of our weighing and measuring on this. I think it should be that you are doing it for other reasons that to break even or to make money.
Todd Huntington- OK I am going to play that back. Would you still buy a deer tag if it were tripled?
Chris Micoz- Yes, I would, if it was something that I really wanted to do. If it was a once in a lifetime tag, it would cost you $500.
Trisha Hedin- I think a 100% increase is a large increase so to put it at $10. I think that is more than. That is asking a lot but it has been a long time since that fee has been set. So I think maybe to say $10 and put that on the table. What do you think?
Todd Huntington- I think that is correct. I do believe we have a motion and a second. So we need to probably vote on that ok.

Blair Eastman- Either way let's get it off the table though.
Todd Huntington- Lets go ahead and vote on this one. I am not going to restate it again it is too complicated. Ok, so all in favor? All opposed?
Bill Bates- The person that asks for the motion needs to vote for it.
Trisha Hedin- I don't want to make TJ's life harder so.
Todd Huntington- Motion Fails.
Bill Bates-I can make a suggestion and bring something up. One other thing that hasn't been brought up tonight is they also have to buy a furbearer's license for $29 in addition to the bobcat permits, but what I was going to suggest what you can say or consider and not to put words into your mouth or anything, but last night at the Southern Region RAC they recommended that the division go back and look at how much we would need to raise a permit to cover our costs and then go to the Wildlife Board with that figure. Better than the $15.
Blair Eastman –So the Southern Region just recommended that you just take whatever that figure is to Wildlife Board and go with that?
Bill Bates- Right.
Blair Eastman- Without anyone else knowing anything?
Bill Bates- Well not quite. What they recommended is that the permit be approved to cover our costs and first they made the motion not to exceed $15. Isn't that right, Kenny? That might have just ended up to just to cover our costs and not above our costs.
Blair Eastman- The other programs like this, like the bobcat program, do they cover their costs most of them? Currently the muskrats don't.
Bill Bates- No, the muskrats are nowhere close.
Blair Eastman- In general do most programs cover their own costs?
Bill Bates- That is a really good question right now. Fishing is being subsidized by deer and elk hunting. But in the past it has been the opposite so. You know we don't have a cost of accounting saying that every program has to absolutely cover itself. What we need to do is cover our costs. What try to do is make it cover it costs. That is why the license fee increase was mostly designed to increase the revenue for fishing.
Wayne Hoskisson-(Made Second Motion) I would make a motion that we accept the proposed fee schedules for bobcat, muskrats, two-cow elk permit and the bighorn ewe permits. I guess $100 or $90 for a two-cow but when this was explained to us that this kind of made sense that this was as way of getting the cow harvested when it was needed to be harvested. It was primarily going to be on private property and things like that. It's a way to get the person to spend the extra $30 to get two instead of one, so I don't have a problem with that, but I would suggest with the bobcats that we actually go with something like we would propose very much the same idea that limits the increase to $15 but it has to be based upon some figures about the cost of the program, and if that is undetermined, then we go with $10. I recommend that the DWR try to come up with an estimate of the cost of administrating the program and if they couldn't come up with a cost that they can justify, go to the $10 fee instead of the $15 fee. The $15 would be the maximum even if it costs more than that to administrate a permit.
Sue Bellagamba- I am just not sure if you want $80 or $100 for the permit?
Wayne Hoskisson- I will go with $80 for the two cow permit.
Sue Bellagamba- I will second Wayne's motion
Chris Wood- inaudible
Blair Eastman- That is my question too, Wayne can you explain that one more time?

Wayne Hoskisson- For a bobcat permit we would suggested that the DWR trim the cost of administrating a permit and that the maximum that they can charge for a permit is $15, and if that figure comes out less then I would suggest going with a $10 permit for the time being. I would really prefer that the DWR come out with a way of covering their costs on this one. And I don't have a problem with charging $15, but if it is not necessary then.
Todd Huntington- So if I understand what he is saying… (cut off)
Wayne Hoskisson- Let's just say the cost of the program or just $15 whichever is less.
Sue Bellagamba- Second the motion
Todd Huntington- the motion is that we accept the two-cow elk, the bighorn ewe and the muskrat as presented. That the bobcat fee be based on costs of the program or $15 maximum or whichever is less. Does that sound about right?
Wayne Hoskisson- Yes.
Todd Huntington- Wayne made the motion and Sue seconded it. Any discussion on that?
Todd Huntington- All in favor? Opposed? Trisha opposed. Motion passes. Item number 7 cougar management plan revision and 2015 recommendations.

VOTING
Motion was made by Trish Hedin to accept the Proposed Fee Schedule FY2015 as presented except that the initial bobcat permit be $5 and an additional $10 fee will be added when the pelt is checked in and sealed & to have the two cow elk permit be $100.
Seconded by Blair Eastman
Failed unanimously.

VOTING
Motion was made by Wayne Hoskisson to accept the Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented, except that the bobcat tag fee be based on the cost of the program. The fee will be the lesser of $15 or the cost of program administration.
Seconded by Sue Bellagamba
Passed 8 to 1 with one opposing vote cast by Trish Hedin

7) <u>Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations (Action)</u>
-Bill Bates, Mammals Coordinator

<u>Questions from the RAC (during the presentation)</u>

Karl Ivory- Bill, is that for the predator units?
Bill Bates- The predator management units are the ones that… Brad, help me out here. Where did you go? The Book Cliffs, San Juan and I believe the Oquirrh-Stansbury, those are. It actually depends which unit it is within those eco-regions. Different units with

those are not meeting there deer populations objectives so.
Wayne Hoskisson- So does that mean that those various hunting units would move in and out of that cougar management?
Bill Bates- Well, not necessarily, because what the determination is for that is how is the deer population doing? Theoretically, if predator management plans are making a difference, then yes, we are going to move out of the need for predator management, because the deer population is going to rebound. Other things can happen like weather problems, so it's always a moving target. But the idea we are working for is to try and move as many of them out of predator management as we can.
Darrell Mecham- How long do you leave them in predator management without seeing the deer rebound?
Bill Bates- That is a good question.
Darrell Mecham- I am just asking, because it is not the lion's fault. You're just killing them, killing them before you decide that's not working.
Bill Bates- If Kathy Jo will put that in the minutes, I guarantee you that the Cougar Advisory Board will look at that question, because I don't have the answer. I think it is a really good question that we need to look at seriously.
Guy Wallace- The Cougar management plan is a three year plan so is up for review in 2016.
Bill Bates- Ok, so there is the short answer. The predator management plans are written for three years, so they will be reviewed in 2016.

Questions from the RAC (after the conclusion of the presentation)

Todd Huntington- Questions from the RAC?
Todd Huntington- One question that I had Bill was if the permits would be increased by two on the Mt. Dutton to protect the recent goat transplant…(inaudible)… Plateau Boulder, Plateau Thousand lakes, where each decreased by 1 so those permits will be put on the Dutton. What's the connection there? Why do we need to remain neutral there?
Bill Bates- We still have gone through and modify the plan and what the plan did is allocate a total number of permits per ecological area and so in keeping with the spirit of the plan we try to balance them out. And you know if you want to make other recommendations you can.
Todd Huntington- No. That clarifies it. Thanks.
Darrel Mecham- The female sub-quota, you say it doesn't have it in this one.
Bill Bates- It doesn't.
Darrell Mecham- If you're not meeting that, what's the point of having that?
Bill Bates- We did need it on some areas and did close some units early that…(inaudible)
Darrell Mecham- Let me rephrase that. Do you have any plans managing any of your other mammals that you don't take females into account?
Darrell Mecham- I mean, you don't have a deer hunt where you just kill them and close it by how many does are killed. I guess I just don't understand it.
Bill Bates- The female sub-quota is proactive up front to make sure you're protecting the female resource. We are confident with permit recommendations that we are making that we are not going to impact the cougar populations. We aren't going to hurt them in any of these units with the recommendations we have made, especially since we are coming back a year later. Let's say on the La Sals, we killed 50% females, well next year we

could come back.
Darrel Mecham- How many females were killed on the La Sals?
Bill Bates- What was that?
Darrell Mecham- How many were killed on the La Sals?
Bill Bates- Do you know Guy?
Bill Bates- This is also a predator management unit so it is a little bit different.
Guy Wallace- 13 total.
Darrell Mecham- I just don't see it. Obviously you just want to kill more than 40% of the females.
Bill Bates- No, what we want to do is kill less than 40% on the average.
Darrell Mecham- But you don't want a safety there so it stops.
Bill Bates- We feel that we have plenty of safety valves with cougars.
Darrell Mecham- You're giving me a political answer.
Bill Bates- It's not political
Darrell Mecham- Say yes or no. You have got to have a safety valve if you don't put the 40% sub quota.
Darrell Mecham- It's that simple.
Bill Bates- We don't feel that we need the sub-quota as a safety valve. The reason is that there is so many sources for cougar immigration, like with the Book Cliffs you have the Hill Creek Extension. You have Desolation Canyon. You have Colorado and there are other places that cougars can come from. We know from research that they move many, many miles and you know that the cougar population as a whole is really a mobile population that moves around quite a bit. So based on my 30 years of working with cougars I am not worried that by eliminating the female sub-quota, we are going to hurt any of our cougar populations.
Darrel Mecham- There would be females migrating from other areas too. You just don't want a safety valve.
Bill Bates- We don't feel that we need it. We feel that this, what we are proposing will maintain safety for the viability of the population.
Darrel Mecham- Explain that to me.
Bill Bates- It is just like you said. There are so many females moving in and out or cougars moving around that if there is an empty niche, we haven't seen evidence that the populations have been hurt by our hunting strategy. So it's due to what kind of tool do you want to have and last night the Utah Houndsmen Association made a proposal to make all units either have a female sub-quota. If a person draws a permit and uses their points on a limited entry unit, a female sub-quota doesn't make any sense at all to me. Because a person has a chance to be selective, they have got the entire season to hunt and so there is no need to have.
Guy Webster- Can I speak to that?
Bill Bates- You will have your chance.
Todd Huntington- Guy, you will have your chance.
Darrell Mecham- It's not a cure, it's a hunt.
Bill Bates- You're right.
Darrell Mecham- You go out and hunt something and you run your points on a unit. That is how you go hunt a big horn sheep, so the last day and you go ahead and say I will just kill a little one, where you really don't have to kill something you hunt. But I am not going to go into your argument there. What I want you to do is to solemnly tell me, Why

you don't have a safety valve program for harvesting females in the State of Utah. I don't care if the lions in Cache County go to San Juan County; they still travel in this area. So why don't you want to have a safety valve? That is my concern.
Bill Bates- The data that we have from harvest data from 1990- current demonstrates that a female sub-quota is not needed to provide that safety valve. The hunting strategies we employ have not harmed cougar populations.
Darrell Mecham- Ok, why don't you have one?
Bill Bates- Because of the complications of making areas.
Darrell Mecham- (Inaudible. Away from the mic and talking over Bill)
Bill Bates- You know I don't have the data right here in front of me to tell you which units did close, but we had units that closed due to a female sub-quota, and we felt that there are some where we would have like to have gotten some more harvest on. So that is the reason why we don't want it. And doing the adjustments on an annual basis is a trade-off, because if we ever harvest one year, we have the chance to compensate for the second year. So we do have a safety valve and that is adjusting permits annually. If you would rather have a female sub-quota, then my recommendation would be that we go back three years. You know, setting permits for three years. Because that was the trade off.
Darrell Mecham- The one piece of this as long as I have been here is and I have talked to your previous biologists over this. It seems that all of your plans are driven from what the land owners want. I would like to see a plan presented by your people that manage the cougar population that isn't driven by us, but driven by them. You guys have got a handle on it and had a little bit more control than saying we are going to do this.
Bill Bates- The Wildlife Board told us to simplify the plan and to administer permits on a unit basis. That's the only direction that we had. Personally I was involved in writing the first cougar plan and I think it worked for 10 years. I think that the goal of the plan was to maintain viable cougar populations in balance with prey and other resources, and I think it worked. I think it was a lot simpler than this plan is and I feel that this plan really ties our hands as biologist just like the thing that Todd brought up on the Dutton. You can't adjust two permits in an area that you have made a change in management because the plan dictates it. Now in this eco region, you have to have this many permits and the number of permits is driven by the plan rather than by what the biologist thinks or from public input.
Darrell Mecham- I think you have the ability to put together a scientifically biologically driven plan and have for years.
Bill Bates- I was part of that group that wrote that first plan and I didn't feel any pressure from the Wildlife Board to write it a certain way.
Darrell Mecham- Well, your previous coordinators felt huge pressure. They need to make this work and they need to make it fit. I am going to be honest with you. I have had some pretty good visits with them.
Bill Bates- Well maybe you and I can talk afterwards.
Darrell Mecham- Ok
Todd Huntington- Bill how do you feel about the unit by unit instead of the eco-region? Does that help you manage them better?
Bill Bates- Absolutely. You know the whole reason for going from unit to unit with deer was to direct pressure where we want. I spoke with two houndsmen today. What happened last year is that some of the units in the eco-regions got hunted heavier than

others, just like with the Book cliffs vs. Nine-Mile, and by being able to split the permits and the quota and put them where we want, it gives us more flexibility as biologists to put the harvest where we want it. This way can be more advantageous to hunters and guides because it allows larger areas to stay open and a quota to be shared and so it's not as good as directing hunter pressure where we want it. So I feel that the unit by unit is a better way to do it.
Todd Huntington- Ok
Darrell Mecham-About the problem with a GPS location…coming from a law enforcement background, and having outfitted for 20 something years before I gave it up, you're going to have people tagging cougars in the wrong units just to save the unit.
Bill Bates- That is a social question as far as that I would like to have the data, yes. But I think that the question is that you have some hunters when we implemented the coyote program you had some that came in and said "Well, I can't operate a GPS or I can't afford one" so I think that is a question for you as a RAC. I am comfortable with you guys answering that question if you want to require that of them. I think it is great data for us to have. I have been told that some guys aren't ever going to tell us where they killed them because they just don't want us to know.
Darrel Mecham- Social issue? Oh I am sure that TJ has Google earth on his laptop and they can sit and say this is the spot. We can verify that. It's not that hard. It's simple.
Bill Bates-As long as they are telling us truthful points you know.
Darrel Mecham- If they're not, then there should be a penalty.
Bill Bates-Well, I am not opposed to it.
Darrel Mecham- I will shut up after this. But do we really want to get into this every year? Honest to god, do we really want to?
Bill Bates- It was a tradeoff. That's what the houndsmen association asked for. I guess you guys need to go back and answer that. I mean we prefer it every three years. But I don't think we have to answer that question tonight Darrell. This is just a one year thing. We have got to get something fixed; it was too complicated for us to explain to the public. The people we involved in writing it understood it and it made sense to them. But if we can't even explain it, then it is too complicated.
Todd Huntington- Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

Guy Webster- Is it not true that the Utah Houndsmen Association met with John Shivik the former coordinator in May of this year and hashed out a plan? And then it came back because SFW wasn't happy with that plan and revisited it?
Bill Bates- That's not true at all. It went back because I wasn't happy with it. John didn't even invite the entire committee and held the meeting on a day that people couldn't even be there.
Guy Webster- You haven't ever had a female sub-quota on a limited entry unit, right?
Bill Bates- It is true that we have never had a female sub-quota on a limited entry unit. Last night Dan made a proposal at the meeting and it sounded like he was asking for a female sub-quota on every unit.
Todd Huntington- Thank you. Is there any other question from the audience?
David Bronson- I have got a concern that there is some areas and the one I am thinking of

right now is the Escalante. You have a sheep population there that recently is being impacted by lions and the problem is the access into that area limits where hunters are going to get in there. So it doesn't matter what you do. You're not going to have people hunting those lions. And what I am wondering is if the division got any kind of contingency or plans to deal with that?
Bill Bates- Last year, Wildlife Services went into that unit and we asked them to do some trapping and snaring. They took a helicopter and I don't know if they ever found any sign active enough that they could do anything. You know what the area is like better than anybody and its just remote and dry. So it is a real problem. And yes we need to keep working on that.
David Bronson- I have been in there for the last 8 years and when we started going in there, we didn't see any lion signs and now there are lion signs everywhere.
Bill Bates- It is a harvest objective unit with no quota, so take your dogs with you.
Todd Huntington- Is there any other questions from the audience?

Comments from the Public

Guy Webster- Basically we are just asking to reject the DWR plan as presented. We request you keep it on a unit by unit basis. I stood here last year specifically about the Book Cliffs and Range Creek plans being put together, and I voiced that the bulk of the lions would come off the Book Cliffs, and I was told that was a foolish thought and that wouldn't happen. Thirty five out of the 40 came off the Book Cliffs. Go on record that I forecast that and unfortunately that forecast was 100% correct. We do request that there is a female sub-quota of 40% on there. There needs to be a safety valve. There are some of these units that don't have a lot of lions left. The Henry Mountains, for example, three lions were killed off it last year. That unit could be very easily over-harvested. Yes it is a predator management area, but we need to learn to deal with having cougars there. We can't go on with this continual thought that the cougars are the reason that we don't have deer. We've got elk, we've got lack of chaining, lack of fires a million of other things that have come into play and keep blaming it on the cougars. We need to have a safety valve 40% is not too much to ask for the female sub-quota. We do ask that all females are included in this. Currently most of the plans only looking at adult females. All females need to be put into the data, the 40% and stuff when they go and figure them calculations not just the adult females. Sub-adults aren't looked at and we ask for that. 90% of our hunters right now are using GPS tracking collars; we have requested that GPS coordinates are required on all cougar harvested. It does give the ability for law enforcement to go back in and verify that kill location and make sure that kill is actually is there and if they have any questions on that. It's not a hardship. The price of a GPS is minimal. If you can't afford that then you're not even close to being able to afford running a pack of dogs. And anybody that wants to use that as an excuse is just using an excuse for something besides being truthful and honest. Here is what we ask for. I have doing this for 30 some odd years I have watched the ups and downs. I am very, very serious about this. This is a life style. I don't want to see fewer deer. I don't want to see fewer elk. But I damn for sure don't want to see fewer lions than what we have right now. And right now there is a fear in this state that we are on the brink of having a problem to where there isn't going to be any lions to chase, lions to kill, and lions to harvest. Thank you.

Todd Huntington- Thanks Guy. That is the only comment card that had from the audience. We will go to comments from the RAC.

RAC Discussion

Darrel Mecham-I don't know where we are going from here. I really think that we need to keep from having this big discussion every year. It can't be that we have to have this battle every year. I don't see where having a female sub-quota hurts when they say it has never been an issue. I don't know how you manage any animal or mammal in the state without consideration of the females. That's your whole ball game right there. The GPS thing that excuse being in law enforcement for 30 years that's a lie. That's your criminal that is hiding stuff. And Guy is right, everyone is running GPS. They're all running GPS so that isn't a valid argument. They can do that. I will shut up.
Wayne Hoskisson- They have dogs and are running GPS.
Darrel Mecham- They do. They have got 2,000 dollars invested in them, so I'm not buying that.
Trisha Hedin- I think hunters, anglers, and houndsmen have a high degree of knowledge as to populations so I really think that we need to take into consideration the recommendations made Utah Hounds man Association.
Wayne Hoskisson- Just to make sure that I am clear on what we are doing tonight. We are looking at what is going to happen in 2015. We are not looking at changing the management plan except that after 2015 we will be going through this every single year?
Todd Huntington- For the entire cougar management plan, it will be revisited.
Blair Eastman- Every year we will be doing this?
Bill Bates- Let me clarify that. What we are asking is that you ask that we re-open the cougar plan and the cougar advisory committee with a recommendation that it not come back annually. What we are proposing tonight is just for one year.
Blair Eastman- The advisory committee consists entirely of special interest groups. If you look at it, there is not anybody on this one that is not representing some special interest. And I think that is unusual for most of these. Why are we looking at this? It does seem a little odd. I mean I sort of understand it. But we don't have this cougar fight. I am sure you're sick of this too. Because you have been here for every one of them. But is it because we have these special interest groups on this group that are just kind of bickering and we are not really making head way here? Or what is going on? Can't we make a decision and stick with a three-year plan.
Bill Bates- The next cougar advisory board won't necessarily consist of the same people. We need to have all faucets of cougar management represented which includes deer, big horn sheep and the average hunter.
Blair Eastman- Ok..Good Luck!
Todd Huntington- Any other comments from the RAC? Entertain a motion?
Darrel Mecham- I will take a crack at it. I say we take the plan and these additions that you add the sub-quota a 40% back in so we have protection for the females and that we take into account the females harvested in your calculations.
Todd Huntington- All units, all females?
Darrell Mecham- Right.
Bill Bates- I would just like to clarify that we did.
Darrel Mecham- I saw it. And the GPS, that is a no brainer. Let's put the GPS in there

too. Houndsmen should be able to come up with GPS locations. They know where their harvests are.
Todd Huntington- Everybody understand that?
Bill Bates- I actually don't understand that. Ok so you said 40% quota .
Darrel Mecham- 40% quota back in. Female quota.
Bill Bates- On which units?
Darrel Mecham- Not on your limited entry but your harvest objective quota units.
Bill Bates- And not on predator management plan units?
Guy Webster- On all management units.
Bill Bates- You also want it on a predator management unit?
Darrell Mecham- Yes.
Bill Bates- Ok, that is not our objective on predator management though.
Darrell Mecham- I understand where you are going with it. I just really have a hard time accepting that you're on this kill everything program. I understand we want to reduce some, but I don't think that is good science, Bill. I am not going to go there. I am just not going to do it.
Guy Webster- Todd, I hate to do this but there was a female sub-quota on predator management units last year. I have the documentation right here, right off the web site. So yes there is a female sub-quota on a predator management unit.
Bill Bates- It is a different level.
Guy Webster- Bill, it is right there.
Todd Huntington- Do you know the percentage Guy or can you…?
Guy Webster- Females remaining 17 on a particular one that doesn't mean that they all have a sub-quota.
Todd Huntington- Is there a percentage level on a predator management unit?
Guy Webster- I don't dare say. (Away from the mic.)
Bill Bates- I will have to look at this
Darrel Mecham- Brad, you're shaking your head.
Brad Crompton- I will have to check into this. (Away from mic)
Bill Bates- I think what you have is that some of the units within Uintah are under cougar management and some are under predator management.
Guy Webster- Predator management …(Talking over Bill Bates. Inaudible)
Darrel Mecham- I understand that on your sheep units you want them all gone, but I don't think you can destroy a population and feel good or feel right about it.
Bill Bates- We are not planning on that.
Darrel Mecham- I know you say that, but then you tell me it doesn't matter because you… (inaudible). Look me in the eye and tell me why it matters so much to you. I feel like I am in congress and watching CSPAN.
Bill Bates- I don't know why I am not answering, Darrell. I honestly don't believe our management plan is going to make a difference.
Darrel Mecham- I am not changing it for him. There has got to be some protection.
Todd Huntington-Ok, so I am going to try to restate it .You would like to accept the proposal as presented with the following caveats. Adding the female sub-quota at 40%, consider all females in the harvest, and require a GPS.
Darrel Mecham- Right. That's all I want is the 40%.
Todd Huntington- And the 40% is not in the bighorn sheep units or the limited entry units**?**

Darrell Mecham-No.
Todd Huntington- All of the units?
Darrell Mecham- Right.
Trisha Hedin- Second that.
Todd Huntington- Seconded by Trisha. Any discussion on the motion?
Wayne Hoskisson- Just a quick comment, because I am going to vote against it. But you probably wouldn't be able to come up with a motion that I would vote for. I am adamantly opposed to all pursuit hunts. We don't pursuit hunt deer, we don't pursuit hunt elk, I don't believe that we should pursuit hunt any animal. Other that I am going to vote against it.
Todd Huntington- Any other discussion on the motion? All in favor? Those opposed? One opposed. Motion passes.

VOTING
Motion was made by Darrel Mecham to accept Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations as presented with the caveat that the harvest of female cougars be accounted for in the quota for all units, and that the harvest of females comprise no more than 40% of the harvest in all units including predator management plan units (but excluding limited entry areas and bighorn sheep areas), and require GPS locations on harvest data.
Seconded by Trisha Hedin
Motion passed with 1 opposing vote cast by Wayne Hoskisson

8) <u>Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations (Action)</u>
-Bill Bates, Mammals Coordinator

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>

Darrel Mecham- You went from three and a cap to basically wide open. Is this not a little bit scary?
Bill Bates- This is really scary.
Darrell Mecham- So can you tell us why you did this?
Bill Bates- Darrell, I am caught tonight in a really tough situation with both the cougars and furbearers recommendations because being a former mammals coordinator I would have done things differently. And we have talked in the agency that this is a big step. And there is some of us in the agency that are really worried that this is too much. But this is what the plan says and the plan was passed by the Wildlife Board. The coordinators and the people that were in place when it went in, they had good justifications with what they did, but I personally think that this is a little bit of an oversight and that we should have incrementally worked back to the base line. That would have been my recommendation.
Todd Huntington- It looks like every one of the variables last year was outside the target.
Bill Bates- The percent survival was within…
Todd Huntington- No, it is 65-72 and it was 75.

Bill Bates- It was actually over. It was higher, which is ok to be higher than the target.
Todd Huntington- That is why you had it limited last year, right? Because you have the variables on the outside?
Darrel Mecham- I am interested in seeing what the trappers have to say about the populations.
Bill Bates- I have to be honest too, last year we referred to it a little bit. But in October we had a little fiasco when we sold our bobcat permits. We had the cap of 4,600 and they or we made the mistake of putting the price in as $15 per permit to where it was $15 if you would have bought the three permits. But still, we would have sold out in 17 minutes. And we ended up with 900 errors and I am on the error committee and so every one of those we had to go through each one of those and evaluate whether we were going to give them permits, how many more permits could we give. We were going to refund what we were going to do. I think we came to a pretty good resolution, but it was kind of a disaster. If we open this up to unlimited this year can't really tell you how many we are going to sell.
Darrel Mecham- I just have visions of… (inaudible)
Bill Bates- That is why we have this process--to get the information.
Sanford Randall- Bill, can you explain what those percentages are coming from or how they are directed?
Bill Bates- Ok, the percent being juveniles. When we check in a bobcat the trapper tells us if it was an adult or if it was a juvenile. We also take the jaw and we can look at the jaw and to determine for ourselves by the growth on the tooth whether it was an adult or juvenile. For percent survival, what we do is cross-section a subset of teeth and create what in life insurance is known as a mortality curve, and second we create a life table and from that we are able to calculate the percent survival. What we do is get an age for every animal. The percent females and set dates are reported by the trappers themselves. We have a questioner we send out to everybody that has a furbearer license and ask them how many animals were caught, how many sets did you have out there, how many days did you trap. That is where the data comes from.
Todd Huntington- Questions from the RAC? Are there any other questions from the RAC?
Todd Huntington- Questions from the audience?

Questions from the Public

Harvey Howard- Has the DWR ever done any studies on bobcats and their effect on deer fawns?
Bill Bates- Not specifically. We have had two different bobcat projects during my career. Jim Karpowits, when he was in graduate school, studied bobcats at Diamond Fork Canyon and Boyd Blackwell studied them out on the Sheep Rocks. I think that I would have to go back and look at their studies, but I don't really recall that fawns were significant portion of their diet. There may be the obvious occasions of when it happens but it wouldn't be a significant portion.
Harvey Howard- Ok, That's all.
Brandon Payne- I am representing myself as a trapper. Do you know what years they had unlimited tags in the past.
Bill Bates- I wish I would have brought that table with me. Do you have the table right

there?
Brandon Payne- Yes, but it doesn't give us the number of tags that was issued.
Bill Bates- Let me take a look.
Brandon Payne-The highest harvest were in 2006 and 2007.
Bill Bates- Ok. Looking at this and recalling what I looked at the table myself, I would say 2003 through 2006 and 2007 is when it was unlimited.
Brandon Payne- So 2003 to 2006 or 2007?
Bill Bates- Yes.
Brandon Payne- ok. That is all I have got right now.
Todd Huntington- Any other questions from the audience? We will now go to comments. Looks like we have a pretty good stack here. Guy do you want to go first? Guy Webster followed by David Bronson.

Comments from the Public

Guy Webster- of the Utah Houndsmen Association. I don't have trap lines and stuff that I once had. I think we need to be just a little bit cautious on over-harvesting. Going from three to six tags and unlimited. It is just kind of to a point to where we need to take a little bit smaller step. Leave it at three and let as many people buy tags that want to so they don't sell out. Or you know bring it up to four tags or something but just going unlimited just seems like it's a real scary situation and this I am just speaking for myself and not the Houndsmen Association. We really don't have a stand on, but I just think lets be a little bit cautious.
Todd Huntington- You want to go with three, but unlimited?
Guy Webster Utah Hounds man Assoc.- I would take some recommendations from these guys but just myself I think we are just not being really responsible for something that could take a long time to give back before we lose it.
Todd Huntington- Ok. Thanks, Guy. David Bronson with Brandon Payne next.
David Bronson-- I support the recommendations that have been made. Thank you.
Todd Huntington- Brandon Payne with Kent Fowden next.
Brandon Payne- My name is Brandon Payne and I am representing myself as a trapper. Quickly I would like to address the unlimited bobcat tags. If you would please turn to the back page of that information that I gave you. Bill just told us that from roughly 2003, 2004 season to 2006, 2007 season we had unlimited numbers of bobcat tags allocated. If you will look in that time period the highest trap harvest was in 2006 -2007 with 3,037 animals harvested. That equated out to three bobcats per trapper. I don't know. You know how many tags were allowed per trapper that year?
Bill Bates- We sold 11,010
Brandon Payne- Ok, so if that was similar scenario to what we are looking at this year with unlimited tags with the 11,000 roughly tags issued, we will have a harvest of 3,000 animals. Yes it is iffy but we have 31 years of data here that shows the average over 31 years is 1.7 bobcats per trapper. It's not, you know you can look down through there as you have time. Another point that I wanted to point out was the only one of the four criteria that's not in line is the set days per bobcat. I have highlighted the low set number per days per bobcat at 120. That equated to 1.4 bobcats per trapper. If you look down to the 2009-2010, the set days per bobcat was 481. That still equated to 1.4 bobcats per trapper. I don't think set days per bobcat can be looked at as a very good judge of the

bobcat population. I think it reflects the number of trappers and the number of traps they have set, if like I said you have time you can look through this you'll also notice that there is kind of a consistent curve. You show a high price per pelt one year and the next year the number of trappers increases. It's not drastic, but it looks like the highest number of trappers was in 84 and 85 at 1,253. No, now I take that back. 2008-2009 there was 1,630. That was the highest number of trappers. They took 1,796 animals. They also had the highest number of set days meaning they had the highest number of traps out and that equated also to the highest number of set days per bob cat. So I think there is more of a criterion between the set days per animal in relation to #1 the amount of trappers in the field. And #2 the amount of equipment that they have out. Back to the first page of this rambling, and I am not sure this is the place to bring it up, but I am not sure where it is so I would like to propose that we standardize the trap check to 96 hours on all traps and snares. Right now it is 48 hours for lack of the better term "land traps." Snares traps that are set so they drown the animals let's say the muskrats, raccoons, beavers etc. are 96 hours. The animals that this would affect would be badgers, bobcats, coyote, fox, raccoon, ring tails, skunks and weasels. If you looked on the second page of this information that I gave you it says the average number of set days per animal of these that I listed above for the 2012-2013 season was 126 days. So that means on average a trap sat there for 126 days before it took one of these animals up here. That equated to 63 trap checks per animal. So a trapper was checking a trap 63 times before they caught an animal basically. If we changed that to a 96 hour trap check that would still be 32 trap checks per animal. People raise the argument the trap check isn't to protect the targets species it is to protect the non target species and I would agree to that also. So if you would look at page three of this information it lists the animals. Furbearers harvested in traps set for other species. And if you look numbers wise the highest number in 2012-2013 again that was taken incidentally was striped skunk 1,159 and I have just got the highest 3 numbers highlighted there.

Todd Huntington- Brandon you're running out of time here.

Brandon Payne- Ok I will hurry. Basically it sounds like it is cruel to leave an animal there for two more days in a trap, realistically we can't set a trap there walk away and an animal comes right in and steps in it you know. On average, we have to check the trap 63 times. The reasons for my proposal is with the pushing's of the BMP's which is on that other hand-out that I gave you which emphasizes equipment modifications and that type of stuff to holding an animal longer more comfortably and the fur harvester education courses trappers now days are better educated. Both in equipment, how to prevent catching no target animals and a couple other things. Changing the trap check would cut trapper caused human interference in a big game wintering ground because that's where 90% of predator trapping takes place in the winter. It would cause that human interference that the trapper caused human interference that would cut it 50%. Another thing my kids got burned out with in the first month. We all live in an instant gratification society we all get ticked off when our computers running slow. We are not immune to it unfortunately I think it would help keep kids interested. Basically I am probably out of time so anyways I appreciate your time.

Todd Huntington- Thanks Brandon. Kent Fowden your next, Jerry Swasey you're on deck.

Kent Fowden of Utah Trappers Association- As a whole we support the plan as written. The numbers for the set day checks can be construed, but I won't even go into that. The

other numbers that gets thrown around is the 11,000 tags. Thirty years of data shows that we have never harvested more than 3,400 animals. Regardless of the number of tags sold. That is 30 years of hard data that is undisputable. The other thing that I would like to see is a recommendation and there are reasons why. I would like to see the board support an increase in the season length. Being on the front end or the back end-- if you go to the front end, you're putting more trappers out that are killing more coyotes. If you go to the back end, you increase the juvenile survivability and the same thing as females. Bill will tell you one thing and it is back and forth and back and forth. But you have 30 years of hard data and even the biologist would agree with 30 years of hard numbers. But as a whole, we support the plan as written. I would support and ask for an extension of the season up to two weeks. Even a week would be beneficial. Thank you
Todd Huntington- Kent, can I ask you a question while you're there?
Kent Fowden Utah Trappers Assoc. - Yes sir.
Todd Huntington- Does the Trapper's Association support Brandon's proposal about the extending the check to 96 hours. Do you have a position on that?
Kent Fowden Utah Trappers Association-I would like to see that. There are a lot of reasons for that. When you set for a coyote, and I happen to be a big coyote trapper, it can take as much as two weeks before that trap is ever visited. So I would support that.
Todd Huntington- Ok. Thank you. Jerry Swasey is up with James Butterfield on deck.
Jerry Swasey- I agree with your proposals. I think that New Mexico and Nevada both run unlimited tags and they seem to be holding their populations pretty good. So I think we should be relatively the same for the terrain and everything being next door neighbors basically. The additional time frame on a season I think that would be a good deal, and the 96 hours check or 72 would be good because you find yourself getting farther and farther away from civilization to set you traps.
Todd Huntington- Thanks Jerry. James Butterfield up and Sanford Randall on deck.
James Butterfield- I agree with the guy over trapping areas. I'm the young guy on the block. I am they look at saying make sure you're doing what you're supposed to be doing. Even as young as I am compared to what they are, I still follow the exact law that they talk about in the meetings and at all of the conventions that you trap somewhere for a little while you catch a few animals you move. You move somewhere else if you aren't catching in that area then leave it alone for a couple of years. And that is the way that I have been taught. I know that's way they teach everybody even in all of the classes. They have classes at every UTA convention that I have been to. So there is a lot of education behind it and there always is going to be those few people that don't follow but that's in every form of hunting that I know. There is always going to be those couple of guys that ruin it for all of us. But I support the six tags. It is a lot of work to catch six cats. It is a lot of work. If your running more than 20 traps, honestly and doing a good job at it. If you're saying you're running 60 traps and you're not there from daylight to dark, then you're lying. It is a lot of work if you are talking a trap every two to three miles because all of the animals aren't going to be all in one area. You can't land mind an area without somebody finding you out. So trappers are taught to be unseen, unheard. So I don't see a lot of the people changing how many they catch anyway. SO if I could catch six cats that would be great. That's all I have got.
Todd Huntington- Thanks James. Sanford you're up.
Sanford Randall- I also support the division's recommendation for the increase in tags and also with the extension of the seasons. A couple of things that does is it gets trappers

out especially in our area where we have an issue with coyotes. It gets trapper out to work on those coyotes more and more all of the time. The thing with trap check law that makes it is sometimes you can find an area where bobcats are very few. But usually those areas are very close to town because you can't travel out far enough to set traps and then keep within your trap check area. Where we are from there is a lot of areas that are very, very inaccessible and if you have more hours that you can use to check those traps, it gets trappers out into those areas and it leaves some of the areas that are close to town that are not worked so hard and so the populations in those areas do better. They don't have nearly the competition in those areas and that's the way it is now. In southern Utah last year you just about couldn't go anywhere that there wasn't a trap, because the prices were high at the time and there were a lot of trappers out. Last year the prices decreased 30% on bobcats and the number of trappers that will be out if you look at the history of the trapping over the years, this year there won't be as many trappers just because the price dropped. And the idea that we are reckless because we are increasing the tags to six again the data shows that we have never harvested that many. And so I don't believe it is reckless and this is one thing that the analysis that they do with their triggers it is calling for and I also support it.

Todd Huntington- Thanks. That is all of the comment cards we had from the public so we will go to, oh wait one more.

Harvey Howard- I am interested in the 96 hour check as well and I really don't have no problem with the six tag deal but I would recommend that the RAC or the DWR look at maybe a little better trigger system to jump it up rather than to just doubling it. Obviously there is a trigger system in place and that's why it went to six. I don't feel like the areas that my families have trapped have increased in population enough to go clear to six but if the triggers and what they have put in place then that's the way it is. So I would like to see a better trigger system possibly. Any ways thank you.

Todd Huntington- Ok let's go to comments from the RAC.

RAC Discussion

Darrel Mecham- Will this be addressed next year? Is there a trigger or is there something wrong? I am opposed to six tags. If the harvest doubles or triples, is there a trigger that shuts it down?

Bill Bates- What we will do next year is we will look at where we fell within the performance targets and if we need to readjust them, we will.

Trisha Hedin- I mean in theory when you look at these statistics, they did double. Meaning like if they said 2006 it was 3,000 compared to 1,200 just this last year. We kind of know that's probably going to happen. Right? Looking at statistics.

Bill Bates-Yes, doubling the harvest may not be the problem as long as it falls within the population parameters.

Trisha Hedin- You're right.

Blair Eastman- So Bill, once you hit two of the target criteria, that's when you go back the base?

Bill Bates- Yes, the base line.

Trisha Hedin- Ok

Todd Huntington- And we have three in the target right now. And one trending.

Blair Eastman- So we should be at base line?

Todd Huntington- Just saying…
Todd Huntington- Anyone want to entertain a motion?
Todd Huntington- You have three things there. You have numbers of permits, you have the 48 hours versus the 96 hours, and then the unlimited deal, and oh, the season length. I don't know if you want to address any of those separately.
Darrel Mecham- I can't go for the 96 hours. I lost a $3,000 dollar lion on this set of traps. I found her dead. The trapper hadn't even checked his traps. She cost more than he was going to harvest all year. And that is an incidental catch. And there is a lot of people out with dogs. You know, I trapped for years and years. If you're going to trap, you need to check your traps. But other than that I have no issue with the proposal DWR has. And this isn't part of it either.
Todd Huntington- Is that a motion Darrell?
Darrel Mecham- I make a motion that we accept the DWR's proposal as is.
Blair Eastman- I will second it
Todd Huntington-So we have a motion by Darrell and a second by Blair to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat recommendations as presented. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor? Any opposed?
Wayne Hoskisson- I don't like it for different reasons. You know when we look at trapping for animals, we are looking at the wrong kind of thing. We are not looking at really what is going on in an area. There are too many other things that should be played into this like what's the rat population? Do we want cats or rats? You know doubling these things is playing the wrong game.
Todd Huntington- How did you vote Wayne?
Wayne Hoskisson- You know, I guess I will vote against this, because I don't think it is being looked at right.
Todd Huntington- Ok, so we have 1 opposing vote by Wayne. The motion passes. I believe that is it. Meeting is adjourned**.**

VOTING
Motion was made by Darrel Mecham to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
Seconded by Blair Eastman
Motion passed with 1 opposed cast by Wayne Hoskisson

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.
Public in attendance: 16

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on August 28 at 9 a.m. at the DNR Board Room at 1594 W. North Temple, SLC

The next southeast regional RAC meeting will take place on September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal
July 31, 2014

5. TURKEY DEPREDATION RULE - NEW RULE R657-69

MOTION to accept DWR's proposal as presented

Passed unanimously

6. PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FY 2015

MOTION to go with the fee schedule as presented except with bobcat tags to go with a $10fee.

Passed 6 to 1
Abstentions: 1

7. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS AND 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS

AMENDED MOTION to approve as presented except with a 40% female sub quota

Passed 7-1

8. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS - Leslie McFarlane

MOTION to approve as presented, with an extension of one week at the end, with the idea that we analyze it after one year to see if it has affected it.

Favor: 7
Abstentions: 1
Motion passed

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal
July 31, 2014

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:
Wayne McAllister, Chair
David Gordon, BLM
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen
Andrea Merrell, Non consumptive
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Carrie Messerly, At Large
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:
Beth Hamann, Non consumptive
John Mathis, Public Official
Joe Batty, Agriculture

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:
Torrey Christophersen, NER Law Enforcement
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist
Kenny Johnson, SLO Admin Services Section Chief
Leslie McFarlane, SLO Mammals Coordinator
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist
Jason Robinson, SLO Upland Game Coordinator

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Kirk Woodward

1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE -Wayne McAllister

2. APROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES - Wayne McAllister
Motion to approve Randy Dearth
Second David Gordon
Passed unanimously

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Wayne McAllister
The turkey information and upland game our RAC had passed unanimously, was discussed along with other issues. There wasn't anything different than we had recommended.

Boyde Blackwell: The crow issue took a lot of comment but it passed. Then the Rules had an opportunity to be reviewed again. After the Legislature received the comments, they had us readdress it. On Tuesday it was readdressed but they didn't get any comment that was different from the original meeting, so it again passed 3-2. There will still be a crow hunt, not raven. There is a difference. It's unlikely that you're going to see a crow in the Basin. They're mostly along the Wasatch Front. It will carry this time. There was a lot of awareness raised. The Northern RAC opposed the ruling and that's the one it affects the most, yet after reviewing it, the Wildlife Board approved it.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE - Boyde Blackwell

Game Management:

Preseason elk and pronghorn surveys is finished. Now they're taking care of rabbit routes. The rabbit population is way up from the last couple of years.

We have lots of bears issues: in Little Hole, the Book Cliffs and Calder, which have gotten into trailers. We've removed a couple of bears already, one at Greendale Junction and a female with a couple cubs that was hit on the road. She didn't make it but we were able to capture the cubs and take them to a rehab center in Millville where we'll keep them until we can reintroduce them after the winter. I expect it to get worse before it gets better. With dry weather, natural food has dried out. This last rain may cause more green up, which is what we'd like to see, but we'll see. We've had two good years previous to this, but not this year.

Depredation complaints are up because of dry conditions. Pronghorn, where the only real feed is in agricultural fields.

Habitat:

The spring work has been completed, now the fall work is in its developmental stage. Guzzlers are ready to be installed. We're also assessing a rail line to rail the heavy crude out of the Basin and trying to mitigate for where it goes through habitat.

Law Enforcement:

Torrey Christophersen has come back from a career mobility in Salt Lake. Dan Barnhurst moved back to his sergeant position and Sean Davis moved back to his original position. A Manila Conservation Officer Shane Kitchen, starts August 9. He really is looking forward to being there. We are on track to get a new Roosevelt officer in January, then we'll have a full contingent, finally.

Aquatics:

Stocking has been good. We've included wipers, brown, tiger Muskie. Browne Reservoir is way down to below the pipe outlet so we could fix it. We've increased the catch limit from 4 to 8 and we've heard that people are catching them.

Outreach:

We recently had an Osprey Watch at Flaming Gorge. A lot of people came out.

Also, the Division just purchased a clay pigeon flinger for use with young people. We had an impromptu training with a youth group to train them.

A new Outdoor Recreation position is coming to our region. There will be four positions statewide. 58 people put in. We're going through the names and holding interviews on that, which should be filled by our next RAC meeting.

Wayne McAllister: Introductions
Tim Ignacio - Ute tribe
Rod Morrison - Sportsmen
Mitch Hacking - Wildlife
Carrie Messerly -Vice Chair Public at large
Wayne McAllister - Chair
Boyde Blackwell - Supervisor
David Gordon - BLM
Randy Dearth - Sportsmen
Andrea - Non consumptive
Dan Abeyta - Forest Service

Boyde Blackwell: Regarding bear, there has been an overnight camping restriction placed on PR Springs and Willow Canyon for two weeks. We have three traps in place, and looking for hounds men to help us capture them. We appreciate the efforts working with the BLM. We made a recommendation to BLM to close the area for a couple weeks until we could deal with the bear and they stepped up.

5. TURKEY DEPREDATION RULE - NEW RULE R657-69
(see handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: No monetary compensation even if they have property damage? Is that different than big game damage?

Jason Robinson: It is. Usually turkeys cause very little damage, and what we want to do is take care of the problem. In most cases we want to capture and remove them from areas they are causing damage to one of the 251 areas where we do want them.

Mitch Hacking: Where are you having the problems?

Jason Robinson: The I-15 corridor, where there is a large population.
15-20 are pretty cool. 100, not so much.

Mitch Hacking: Do you have a problem with them coming into livestock?

Jason Robinson: Not one tool is going to work in every situation, so with some of these hunts, we'll put a little bit more wild in our hunt.

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from RAC:
None

Comments from Public:
None

MOTION
Mitch Hacking move to accept DWR's proposal as presented
Rod Morrison: Second
Passed unanimously

6. PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE FY 2015
See handout

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: How much is a muskrat pelt worth?

Kenny Johnson: The highest we've seen is $13.

Carrie Messerly: Is there currently for the mentor program a place on the fee schedule for that?

Kenny Johnson: It's not new fees, it's augmenting permits that exist. The new statute provides you can share permits in certain situations.

Dan Abeyta: Are there certain areas where we're having problems with ewe sheep?

Bill Bates: We've had several problems last year, 11 on the south Book Cliffs near Nash Wash. A group of sheep moved into an area with domestic sheep. Another group by Bicknell and on the Grassy Mountain removed one ram. We did a little work at Goslin Mountain and could possibly use permits like that. If we're ever lucky enough to need it for population control it would be a great problem to have. We would look at a five-year waiting period.

Mitch Hacking: Has the drought caused a problem for them?

Bill Bates: We haven't had the problems in summer. It was before, during or after the rut. More related to the rut than the drought.

Dan Abeyta: Fees for bobcat are $5?

Kenny Johnson: $5 each, times three last year. This year we're offering six.

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from RAC:

Rod Morrison: On bidding off those muskrat trapping areas, it seems like youth are most of the muskrat trappers. It seems like it would take opportunity away from them.

Kenny Johnson: There's plenty of recreational trapping around the state, but right now even under the draw system, it's a random process every year. It's already really restricted and limited. It doesn't help us meet the needs that are out there.

Boyde Blackwell: We don't have the problems out here with muskrats compromising any of the water impoundments that we have that we can't get control of, so I don't know that we would contract it out. We would probably leave that open for kids to be able to go trap.

Bill Bates: My hope would be that some person would bid on it and take their son or daughter out to help them trap. It's probably not something we could turn over to somebody without adult supervision.

Comments from Public:

Kent Fowden (Utah Trapper): On the marshes, with muskrat that was proposed, the managers have had their hands tied. It takes specialized equipment. Trying to train a youth is encouraged but detrimental to the marsh. The marsh managers have needed it and we appreciate that. They are opposed to the increase due to the fact that it's a 200 % increase. The Division has not looked at the fee in years but we feel it's a knee jerk reaction to what happened last October. We would prefer the fee increased incrementally.

Discussion by RAC:

Dan Abeyta: $5 for a bobcat seems really really low. How does that compare to other states?

Kenny Johnson: We looked at surrounding states. Some raise the furbearer price and include it, some cheaper. It was everywhere.

Kent Fowden: The $407 is an average for one year. The market could drop and we've seen them down to $50-$60. It's all supply and demand. And there's a lot that goes into that $407 average, pelt handling, so many variables. They could drop tomorrow and be worthless. The $407 return on the bobcat is a misnomer because the cost to harvest is 1.3 cats per trapper. Cost to harvest that is closer to $600. They don't do it for the $407 average. They do it for the passing down a heritage and enjoyment, and time to spend with your kids.

Randy Dearth: How about other states' prices?

Kent Fowden: It's completely all over the board. Nevada doesn't have a fee.

Rod Morrison: If you think six permits are too many, what would you like to see?

Kent Fowden: The six tags goes back to the management plan. We support the six wholeheartedly.

Mitch Hacking: How many years has it been since you had the fee increase?

Bill Bates: 1985 about.

Mitch Hacking Have there been any others that have gone that long?

Carrrie Messerly: Is there a reason it wasn't done incrementally before?

Bill Bates: We talked about it last year but there have been more pressing needs. The costs have increased. Each tooth section costs $4.00, checking in bobcats. The amount was very conservative. Sometimes we're just not paying attention to the costs involved.

Boyde Blackwell: In other instances the costs have been absorbed into other programs. It's time to cost code it out, the bobcat program ought to be able to stand on its own.

Randy Dearth: What did the other RACs do?

Kenny Johnson: They landed a compromise. Last night the RAC wanted us to do more research on costs to cover the program and costs of issuing permits and doing the seal of the hides and come in closer to that, not to exceed $15. It was similar in the Southern region.

Bill Bates: They made a motion to have the cost of the fee not exceed the costs expended in administering the program.

MOTION:
Randy Dearth: I was liking the idea of finding what the program costs, not to exceed $15.

Kirk Wooward: Dan asked about neighboring states. In Colorado you can't trap a bobcat, so it is kind of a privilege to be able to trap a bobcat and to do that for this expense is a privilege.

Wayne McAllister: Watching different families and furbearers and trapping, it's diminished over the years.

Fernando Rubio: In Colorado it's $66 for a bobcat permit unlimited. Even though you can't trap with hounds, you can get cats. I think $15 is way excessive

Carrie Messerly: You can be angry that there's an increase or you can be glad that we made it from the 80s to now without any increases so far. We all know that the cost of everything has gone up exponentially.

Wayne McAllister: We need to decide if we go with what has been presented, or what recommendations could we make to the Wildlife Board.

Tim Ignacio: Why couldn't we compromise and go with $10 instead of $15.

MOTION:
Rod Morrison move to go with the fee schedule as presented except with bobcat to go with a $10 fee.
Randy Dearth: Second
Favor: Tim Ignacio, Rod Morrison, Mitch Hacking, Carrie Messerly, Randy Dearth, Andrea Merrell
Opposed: Dan Abeyta
Abstained: David Gordon

Passed 6-1

7. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISIONS AND 2015 RECOMMENDATIONS - Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from RAC:

David Gordon: I'm trying to figure out your treed information. Is that a lion treed every four days?

Leslie McFarlane: It's an average reported and it depends on each unit. We surveyed 288 out of 738 permits. 81% of those people reported that they treed. 83% of those were those who pursued. and mean satisfaction was three. So, by unit they report a number. The total treed lions reported on the Book Cliffs was 348. That doesn't mean 348 individual lions. Probably some of those are re-treed several times.

Rod Morrison: I noticed our area had the highest female harvest. I'm quite anxious about how the hounds men feel about that.

Leslie McFarlane: When we were applying permits across large areas, it's really easy to apply a female sub quota. We're trying to manage hunters. You're splitting these into smaller units. When you try to put a female sub quota you're doing it on a lot fewer permits. You can under harvest. If your females are harvested early, you don't get the harvest you need.

Rod Morrison: I'm thinking there might be a few more females released if there's a sub quota, and it's a good thing. It's a protection.

Leslie McFarlane: I'm taking it back to where we've been in the past where we didn't have female sub quotas. That's the safety valve, that we will review that every single year. If the harvested females increases more than we want, we will adjust it next year.

Bill Bates: Tell him what happened with the Cache last year.

Leslie McFarlane: We had several units last year that closed down way early. Cache shut down on February 28 because the female sub quota was met during the limited entry harvest. So the limited entry counted toward the harvest objective. The limited entry closed it down and it never transitioned. There was a total of 15 that could be taken and there was a total of 7. 5 males and 2 females. There's a concern if we have a female sub quota, we're not getting the harvest. If we're closing it down before we meet what we expect to be harvested, it affects our ability to control it.

Bill Bates: The two females didn't meet the 40% with the smaller numbers.

Leslie McFarlane: It included urban areas, which is a really difficult area to get people to harvest in, so we didn't get any harvest in that critical area because it got shut down.

Mitch Hacking: What shut it down, the percent quota of females to males?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes. The minute two females were harvested, it got shut down. All harvest stops regardless of anything else.

Mitch Hacking: If the first two were females that would be 100%.

Leslie McFarlane: Exactly.

Randy Dearth: It seems unfair to you to have this job for a short time and have to go through this. The Wildlife Board asked about a year ago that this be addressed. Has there been anything going on?

Leslie McFarlane: The person before didn't do what was directed for us to do. One meeting on May 18 didn't include everybody who should be there, so the results of that meeting didn't count because not all the players were there.

Bill Bates: For this year, we're proposing a band aid. During the next year, we'll work on next year's recommendations to improve the plan and have something that everybody can live with that's simpler.

Carrie Messerly: Do you manage tag allocation by area and then you mange hunters by certain units, correct?

Leslie McFarlane: For instance, on the Oquirrh Stansbury, the lines are each hunting unit, so when we look at the Oquirrh Stansbury, we look at the cougar populations as a whole over three years. We take the permits that would fit and allocate it permits.

Carrie Messerly: Female sub quota.

Leslie McFarlane: Applied to all areas. So that's why the female sub quota was met so other areas did not take place.

Questions from Public:

Daniel Davis: Clarification on sub unit. Had that been managed unit by unit, would it have shut down the whole portion?

Leslie McFarlane: No.

Daniel Davis: In the cougar management plan, part is to reduce units under predator management guidelines is if the amount of wildlife is 65% or less density, right?

Leslie McFarlane: Deer is less than 90% of objective and 80% survival. If it's below that in a three-year period. If it drops less that 80% in one year, it triggers it.

J.C. Brewer: How do you count cougars?

Leslie McFarlane: We rely on harvest and treed per day. That's what we're using right now, but I think the last population estimate was in the 90s.

Bill Bates: We actually use data from research studies we've had. There was a 10-year study in Boulder and a 15-year study on Monroe. In those studies they've come up with a density. Estimate in 1999, first cougar plan was looked at densities of similar habitat from Utah and surrounding states and come up with a number of cougars in specific units. It's not as exact as with deer but it's in the ball park.

Daniel Davis: Who wasn't present at the first meeting?

Leslie McFarlane: The only people present were Dan Cocan from the hounds men, Brett Sellman livestock, Utah State University, and mammals program coordinator, John Shivik and one Wildlife Board member. Kirk Robinson was not present, a couple other hounds men were not present Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and United Wildlife Cooperative was not present.

Daniel Davis: More present in second one?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes.

Fernando Rubio: What's your estimate of lions when you can tree the same lion multiple times in a year?

Leslie McFarlane: It's an estimate based on those metrics and we realize that when they report 348 lions treed in the Book Cliffs and total number of 1500 days, and there were.23 treed per day and 4.8 were treed per pursuer, that's how we get to... if it's between .25 and .35 then the population's probably stable, based on what other studies look like. It's not exact.

Comments from RAC:

None

Comments from Public:

Daniel Davis: Utah Houndsmen Association with letter from Dan Cockayne, President of the Utah Houndsmen Association:

"In August 2013 the Wildlife Board asked the DWR to open the Cougar Management Plan to simplify it and return to harvest limits based on management units rather than management areas. Near the end of May 2014 some of the Cougar Advisory Group met in Salt Lake City to review the proposed Management Plan changes. At that time the proposal did not include a female sub-quota. It was decided by the group to include a female sub-quota as a safety stop to prevent the over harvest of females. David Stoner was tasked with reviewing the most current research and setting the sub-quota based upon that research, he felt it would be somewhere between 40 and 50%.

In July 2014, after a change in personnel within the DWR, a small group of some of the Cougar Advisory group members met in Springville and were presented with a totally different Cougar Management Plan. This plan did not include a female sub-quota but did contain much of the same language as the original plan except it did set harvest limits based on a management unit and changed the review period from once every three years back to reviewing and adjusting permit numbers every year. At this meeting the Mammals Coordinator agreed to changing the language in the plan to include all females that are harvested to be considered in the calculation to determine if tags would be adjusted up or down.

The plan you have been presented does not include this change. After one full year, we have a Cougar Management plan that is still confusing. A plan that could potentially eliminate cougars from many areas of the state by an extreme over harvest of female cougars. A plan that does not seem to reflect the scientific principles that it says it is based on.

We feel this is a failure on the part of the DWR and should not be accepted. We are asking you to do the following:

1. Vote to reject the plan as presented.
2. Vote to accept DWR's proposal to set permits limits based on management units.
3. Vote to add a female sub-quota of 40% to the plan.
4. Vote to consider all females harvested in the calculation to adjust permits annually.
5. Vote to require GPS location of all cougars harvested.

Bill Bates: May I address some of these issues that were brought up? The hounds men did make the request for 40% in the analysis. We did that. He made the comment in the letter that we did not, but we did. It made no difference in the recommendation, so I would like you to know that that was in there.

Daniel Davis: It was for a female sub quota at 40% not for management at 40%. We're asking to be able to close a single unit for the 40% harvest.

Discussion by RAC:

Randy Dearth: Looking at the plan, it says that you'll adjust the permits on an annual basis based on large declines and total female harvest greater than 40%. That tells me they are including that in their calculation and we're just not shutting the unit down.

Leslie McFarlane: We're letting it go through the entire year and respond and adjust for the following year, which is similar to what we do with big game.

Tim Ignacio: I would like to know, where the Uintas and the Book Cliffs are neighboring the Tribe, we've only got five guys who hunt them. If there's a lot of females, a lot of the toms from our side will go over there. But where he says about a GPS, I totally agree with this, because one person cold lie about where they killed it.

Leslie McFarlane: I've done the wildlife disease program for 12 years. Part of that requirement is when they bring me an animal they have to tell the location of harvest. That has been very difficult to get from people. It's kind of an unenforceable law. You make the honest people more honest and you make the dishonest people more dishonest. It's not going to change anything. If law enforcement is relying on these locations for their case, it's so easy to make up a point. Right now when lions are checked in, we ask for a drainage and location. In the 24 years I've done it, hunters are very protective where they say they go because they're afraid you'll release their information.

Torrey Christophersen: We would love to have GPS coordinates but then they say they don't have a GPS.

Carrie Messerly: From an ideological standpoint, hypothetically speaking, if 100% of the tags had the harvest of a female on them, what is the detriment on the population going to be?

Leslie McFarlane: It completely depends on the unit.

Carrie Messerly: So we're guessing to some degree.

Leslie McFarlane: It stays at some level based on historical data and so that tells you that you're staying the same overall with what you harvest.

Carrie Messerly: Does the state feel confident that we would have a rebounded population eventually?

Leslie McFarlane: It takes time to rebuild a population. In the 90s, we went in and really hammered some units to see what the response would be and over time it does bounce back.

Carrie Messerly: There are several variables taken into consideration. We don't know what the population size is, if people are being honest, so be gentle on us too when we have to make these recommendations.

MOTION by David Gordon: to accept the plan as proposed by DWR
Andrea Merrell: Second
Favor: Andrea Merrell, David Gordon, Tim Ignacio
Opposed: Rod Morrison, Carrie Messerly, Randy Dearth, Dan Abeyta
Abstained: Mitch Hacking

Motion failed.

MOTION
Rod Morrison move to go with cougar management recommendations as presented, other than we need a 30% female sub quota.

Andrea Merrell: Why do you feel that would be advantageous?

Rod Morrison: I think it would be dangerous without it. We've got a lot of hounds men who are very passionate about their hunting and they'd like to see the females released and the toms taken. If we don't have a sub quota there's no control.

Carrie Messerly: That makes it more restrictive. If you have a unit that has seven tags on it, you're done.

Bill Bates: It would change the permits for this year and really severely restrict harvest.

Leslie McFarlane: If you have for instance, Box Elder, Desert. If you had 30%, one of the five could be female, and once two of the five were taken you would shut down the whole unit. On units with small numbers, if the first two people harvest females, the entire thing shuts down.

AMENDED MOTION
Randy Dearth move to amend the motion with a 40% female sub quota
Rod Morrison: Second

Favor: Tim Ignacio, Rod Morrison, Mitch Hacking, Carrie Messerly, Randy Dearth, Andrea Merrell, Dan Abeyta
David Gordon opposed
Passed 7-1

8. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS - Leslie McFarlane
See handout

Questions from RAC:
None

Questions from Public:
None

Comments from RAC:
None

Comments from Public:

Kent Fowden (Utah Trappers): We support the plan as presented by the Division, however we would ask for support in an extension of the season of two weeks. We feel it would be beneficial to the survivability of juveniles and females. If we can go later into the spring, it gives us an opportunity to harvest more toms because they are more active. Most trappers would prefer mature toms. They would turn females and kittens loose and take the toms.

John Clegg: Our family has trapped for years as part of our supplemental income and it has become a heritage for our family. I support the recommendations wholeheartedly. I believe a longer season would be better . I know when they talked about the cost of the tags there were numbers thrown out about a $407 average. I spent .45 cents a mile, 92 miles a day, every day, tending 50 traps. That doesn't count tires and the front end going out on my pickup. If you add the $407, I've got more than that invested but we're building a heritage. Not only do we trap, we love the animals we go after. I support Kent and would like a longer season.

Mitch Hacking: What's DWR's position on a longer season?

Leslie McFarlane: I'm not opposed to a longer season. I took a look at the data to see if there was a trend in the juveniles vs. toms taken in the data. There really wasn't a huge change overall, except for Week 11, there was a jump in Week 11 in juveniles. The female chart was similar. There wasn't a decrease or increase.

Bill Bates: We're already proposing going from three to six tags. We have a concern that if you have a longer season also, you may have a larger impact. It would be nice to look at it for one year with this liberalized.

Carrie Messerly: If you give a procrastinator another two hours, they'll just procrastinate another two hours.

Andrea Merrell: How long are you proposing to extend the season?

Kent Fowden: Two weeks. The Southern RAC gave us one week. We recognize the changes, but we're after more toms. Trappers prefer mature toms.

Leslie McFarlane: Would it make a difference if two weeks were taken from the beginning and put on the end?

Kent Fowden: The more trappers you get earlier, they take the coyotes. In the later season they're after mature toms.

Andrea Merrell: How does this make a difference?

Kent Fowden: There are other harvesters who are involved in this too.

Daniel Davis: Weather's a big factor too.

John Clegg: Toms are traveling farther in the end because they're looking to mate, so you're more likely to take a tom.

Leslie McFarlane: Here is a chart showing that there is an equal amount of females, kittens and toms taken at that time.

MOTION
Randy Dearth move to approve as presented, with an extension of one week at the end, with the idea that we analyze it after one year to see if it has affected it.
Mitch Hacking: Second
Favor: Tim Ignacio, Rod Morrison, Mitch Hacking, David Gordon, Randy Dearth, Andrea Merrell, Dan Abeyta
Abstained: Carrie Messerly
Passed

MOTION

David Gordon move to adjourn
Mitch Hacking: Second

Adjourned at 8:50 pm

Next meeting: September 11, 2014

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
August 5, 2014 ✍ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

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

Turkey Depredation Rule – New Rule R657-69
MOTION: To accept the turkey depredation rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation for the new fee schedule
Motion dies, no second

MOTION: To increase the resident bobcat fee to $10 and the nonresident ewe fee to the same as the nonresident ram fee and accept the balance of the fee proposals
Passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations
MOTION: To accept the plan as proposed by the Division
Passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

MOTION: To require a GPS location on cougar harvests
Failed 4 to 6, 1 abstention

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations
MOTION: To accept the furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations as presented with an amendment that two weeks be added to the end of the season
Passed 9 to 2

Deer Management Plans
MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented by the Division
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
August 5, 2014 ✍ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present	Members Absent
Matt Clark, Sportsmen	Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Timothy Fehr, At large	Kristofer Marble, At large excused
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service	
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen	
Michael Gates, BLM	
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair	
George Holmes, Agriculture	
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair	
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive	
Jay Price, Elected	
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive	
Jacob Steele, Native American	

Others Present
Greg Sheehan, DWR Director
John Bair, Wildlife Board Member

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1) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)
- **Gary Nielson, RAC Chair**

VOTING
Motion was made by Jay Price to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by George Holmes
Motion passed unanimously

2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)
- **Gary Nielson, RAC Chair**

3) Regional Update (Information)
- **Ron Nielson**

4) Turkey Depredation Rule – New Rule R657-69 (Action)
- **Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC
George Holmes – You said the landowners cannot be compensated for the vouchers.
Justin Robinson – The way we looked at it is we wanted to try to take care of the problem. We could either catch those birds that are causing damage or harvest some of them. The landowner can still select the individual to come and hunt on his property. The other main reason is that we didn't want to incentivize landowners to complain just so they could get the permits to then sell them.
George Holmes – I have an issue with you saying that because I really don't think that is an incentive for a landowner to complain. I find that offensive.
Justin Robinson – What we are trying to do is to ultimately solve the problem which is getting the turkeys off the property by moving them and allowing some harvest.

Matt Clark – In dealing with these landowners, how many of them are in support of this type of rule? Are most landowners willing to let people on and hunt these turkeys?
Justin Robinson – It's actually one of the requirements if they sign into one of these mitigation damage plans. Part of that agreement would be to allow hunters onto the property if they do the depredation hunt or the control permits because again we want to help them get the problem solved. In general I think landowners have been supportive of allowing the Division to have some tools help them deal with these problems when they occur.

Timothy Fehr – Are the permits only good on the landowners property?
Justin Robinson – There is a stipulation in there that we can allow a buffer beyond the property but the adjoining landowner would have to be in agreement and be part of that plan as well.

George Holmes – Are there any CWMUs for turkey?
Justin Robinson – I think we currently have five in the state.

Questions from the Public
Al Robb – The rule talks about CWMUs for turkeys. I thought CWMUs were set up for the landowner to charge fees to hunt on the property. Is that the case here?
Gary Nielson – It is but at least my understanding is that you can buy a turkey tag on a CWMU or draw one but these are the places where turkeys come in. As I have listened to these guys and watched, turkeys get really smart when they are hunted and I think this is a clever solution to some of the problems they are having.

Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

VOTING
Motion was made by Matt Clark to accept the turkey depredation rule as presented
Seconded by Timothy Fehr
Motion passed unanimously

5) Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 (Action)
- **Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief**

Questions from the RAC
Sarah Flinders – So are the program costs that you showed us at $230,000 is that solely for bobcat management for law enforcement and the biologists or is that cost actually distributed over other areas of wildlife management?
Kenny Johnson – It is strictly for our furbearer program which the majority of that is bobcat.
Sarah Flinders – How many other furbearer species do you manage?
Kenny Johnson – There are a handful of other opportunities. Marten and beaver are some others. Most of what we do revolves around bobcat in that program.
Sarah Flinders – And the law enforcement is strictly for furbearer?
Kenny Johnson – Yes.
Sarah Flinders – My other questions are about the two elk tags. What does one elk tag go for right now?
Kenny Johnson – Right now an antlerless elk is $50.
Sarah Flinders – With the two elk tag can two people share those tags?
Kenny Johnson – Right now we are looking at one person being able to harvest two elk on a place we need that to happen.

Timothy Fehr – Is there any other opportunity in the furbearer area to generate real revenue?

Kenny Johnson – Not really. The furbearer license itself is $29 and that is where that revenue comes from so this is a way to share it across the place that is having the most impact which is the bobcat.

Sarah Flinders – The $29 is a yearly fee?
Kenny Johnson – Yes.

Danny Potts – So the 3-x increase for residents is inconsequential but wouldn't the 9-x increase for non-residents scare those guys away?
Kenny Johnson – They are already participating in really low numbers but if they are avid enough I don't think it will scare them away the way the market is right at the moment.

Karl Hirst – There are other states that have sheep ewe tags. I'm trying to look it up but my memory says they are significantly more than $300. While I try to get this to work can you remember what the other states are charging non-residents?
Kenny Johnson – I don't know off the top of my head. I would have to do some research and find out. We could do that.

Matt Clark – So with the bobcats you are increasing it three times. Are you increasing also the number each hunter can take to six bobcats?
Kenny Johnson – Last year it was three. The proposal you will see here in a minute is for six, yes.
Matt Clark – So there is an increase in opportunity as well as an increase fee. On the muskrats is there just a fee required to trap on the state owned WMAs?
Kenny Johnson – He has to have a fur harvester…. To clarify, just a trap number would be required for those.

Richard Hansen – So basically what you are trying to do is just cover your costs?
Kenny Johnson – Yes.
Richard Hansen – Do fishermen cover their costs?
Kenny Johnson – They are getting closer with the change in combos a couple years ago. The balance is closer but they are not at the moment but it is closer.
Richard Hansen – So basically big game hunters make up the difference for everybody right now.

Questions from the Public
Randall Cox – Sterling – If you put a two cow elk permit out what is that going to do to the elk herd?
Kenny Johnson – Right now tonight we are just getting the fee in place. We don't plan on doing that across the board. It's not in the works to replace cow hunting with this two cow permit. Just in places where the elk densities are high and maybe access is lower and it makes sense to let one guy go in and take care of two.
Randall Cox – Right but how many of these permits will you put out?
Covy Jones – This it is just a tool to use where we are over population objective. If we have an area where we have more elk than we have agreed to have there are people who are more successful at harvesting elk and if they had an opportunity to harvest two that would help us manage to the population objective that we have agreed to.
Randall Cox – How would you know when to stop this?
Covy Jones – The same way we always do. Elk are great because we can fly them every couple years and we know how many we have on the landscape.
Randall Cox – What is the six bobcat tags going to do to the bobcat population?

Kenny Johnson – We are going to get to that in our next presentation. There are far more qualified people to answer that one but the idea is that there won't be a great impact but we will let Leslie explain that here in a minute.

Al Robb – Considering the graph you had with the pieces of the pie that represented where it came from, you talked about the federal aid. Doesn't that in fact come from sportsmen via Pittman-Robertson?
Kenny Johnson – Yes.
Al Robb – You also had a slide about pelt prices. I want to know where that figures in to anything to do with what the Division does. That should be irrelevant.
Kenny Johnson – It was the average reported to us this year so I just included it so people know one more of the market drivers out there.
Al Robb – The other thing is with furbearer permits and the tags. It was asked if it was right to charge nonresidents more money. Most of our neighboring states charge us higher fees to go there and Nevada does not allow bobcat harvest by nonresidents and you can't even bring coyote pelts out of the state legally. I think it's high time that the Division has done something like that.

Kent Butler – You guys are pushing everyone out of this. Everything in the state of Utah has jumped up on their fees. I have a 14 year old boy that loves to trap. I can't afford $15 a tag. How many of us have medical needs and don't make $40,000? When are you guys going to think about us instead of the increase in everything you guys are doing? You are pushing everyone away. You want everyone involved in this but we are getting tired of paying the fees. When is it going to end? Can you guarantee me $400 average on bobcats this year? That price shouldn't have been included in this. Last year I sold bobcats for $80. Why didn't you increase it up to $7? $15 is too much. You are robbing from the people who are making you a job. You are making it to where we are not going to participate in anything anymore. Did you ever think about that? That is something you better think about. There are a lot of people out there that don't have a lot of money who love this sport and you guys are pushing them away. It's got to end.

Kenny Johnson – To revisit a couple of the concepts in the slides, really we've got to survive to allow wildlife to survive and we can't keep subsidizing essentially some of these programs with dollars from other interests. It's hard, I get it. It's a balance and that is why we are here tonight. That is what we are trying to do.

Shane Carter – Payson, Utah – The bobcat and wildlife study, is that a necessary tool to continue on with? How much money is allocated for that? One other point, Wyoming charges $200 for nonresident trapping permit.
Kenny Johnson – Speaking for the wildlife managers I would say absolutely it is critical to assessing the health of the population.
Leslie McFarlane – To clarify it is not a harvest study it is our harvest survey that we do to determine how many bobcat permits we can put out the following year. That is what we are paying for with this.
Shane Carter – So the hair and tooth sample is that included in this?
Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Comments from the Public

Kent Fowden – Utah Trappers Association – We strongly oppose the 200 percent increase in the fees. It hasn't been looked at in 30 years. If there were to be a fee increase we would ask that it be looked at incrementally. If it was a public utility a 200 percent increase would be unheard of. We would ask that be looked at. The muskrats we applaud the fish and game for that proposal. The waterfowl managers need that tool. We do support the nonresident fee increase. The rest of it I can't really talk to. Thank you.

DeeAnn Butler – Payson – I have been told if I have a problem maybe I should also have a theory behind it that would help. I saw the $191,000 that it costs you to check every bobcat hair and tooth. What if you don't check every bobcat that comes in? What if you only did every other bobcat? A lot of those cats will come from possibly the same area so you wouldn't have to increase the permits three times if you only did some of them. You could decrease your cost possibly by half.
Leslie McFarlane – We currently do that. We don't send every tooth or jaw in for aging. We do a subsample so we take everything that we get and then we pick samples from each of the areas to send in so that we are not spending money on every single tooth.
DeeAnn Butler – But you do pull from everyone.
Leslie McFarlane – We do require that they be turned in but we don't send them all in. We take a subsample of what is turned in to us.

RAC Discussion

Karl Hirst – Just by way of information, a ewe tag for a nonresident in Colorado is $2000. They do not give nonresidents a cut for a ewe tag. I would support going to what the ram cost is for a nonresident.

Gary Nielson – I am anticipating quite a bit of discussion on some of those items in the coming year as they come through the RAC process.

Timothy Fehr – I think I understood in your presentation that you said that you considered that there would be a drop off in the number of people who are trapping and you estimate that at about 20 percent. Do you have any basis for that estimate?
Kenny Johnson – We don't think we will see a drop off in trappers per se. That was kind of a prediction on buying behavior. We think that some people won't buy as many. A trapper may not buy all six. We conservatively said we might lose 20 percent of the high mark.

Sarah Flinders – It looked like you were over budget by about $89,000 and after increasing you are over by about $10,000. I could be wrong but if I was remembering right there could be a bit of a margin that you could play with to bring that 200 percent increase down.
Kenny Johnson – What this shows is that we are still going to be behind the curve, we are still going to be under. With the new revenue we will still be short to get to the $230,000.
Sarah Flinders – I thought this was new revenue on top of what was already coming in previously.
Kenny Johnson – Maybe I didn't explain those very clearly. We did two predictions. One based on if everything stayed the same and we only sold 4,400 to residents next year. That was the $50,000 and then this one was a projection based on brand new revenue in addition to what we were doing there.
Sarah Flinders – So you are still about $30 to $40,000 short?
Kenny Johnson – Yes.

VOTING

Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the Division's recommendation for the new fee schedule

Motion dies for lack of second

Motion was made by Richard Hansen to increase the resident bobcat tag fee $10 and accept the balance of recommendations
Seconded by Danny Potts

George Holmes – So it would be an increase of $5 and the non-resident fee would be as proposed.

Karl Hirst – I would like to add an addendum to the motion that the nonresident ewe tag fee be the same as the nonresident ram tag and if nobody wants it for that price the tag goes back to a resident.

Gary Nielson – My understanding is that those prices for the tags will have to go completely through the RAC process and we'll talk about it again and actually set prices for those permits, right? This isn't the setting of $100 ewe tag?
Kenny Johnson – This is the establishing of the fee. This will go through the process that would put a fee in place next July 1st.

Karl Hirst – To clarify, I am saying to leave the resident fee at $100 and make the nonresident ewe tag the same price as a nonresident ram tag. That is what the other states are doing. If nobody wants it then give it to a resident.

Richard Hansen – I accept that addendum to my motion.
Danny Potts – And I second that also.

Gary – I will try to restate the motion. The motion is that we accept almost all of the proposal by the Division with the exception of the bobcat tag increase that was going to be $15 be increased to $10 and the fee for a nonresident ewe permit be the same as the fee for a nonresident ram tag.

Amended motion was made by Richard Hansen to increase the resident bobcat fee to $10 and the nonresident ewe fee to the same as the nonresident ram fee and accept the balance of the fee proposals
Seconded by Danny Potts
Motion passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

6) <u>Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations</u> (Action)
- **Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
Gary Nielson – I did have one that came as a comment card but it's actually a question and I think you answered but you could maybe talk to it a little more. It says could you explain why it is being recommended to eliminate the female sub quota?
Leslie McFarlane – The issue there is before permits were on a very broad scale so it made sense to do a quota. Now we are doing smaller numbers of permits in smaller areas and what will happen is it will actually decrease harvest if you have really low numbers of permits in an area. For example if you have five permits and you are allowed to take one female if the female is taken the opening weekend then you don't get the harvest of the other four permits. It makes it really difficult to get the harvest that we need if it shuts down too early.

Richard Hansen – On the Central Mountains, Nebo are you decreasing the cougar permits?
Leslie McFarlane – Correct and that is based on harvest data from the previous three years.
Richard Hansen – That is still under predator management because it has big horn sheep and goats now.
Leslie McFarlane – Right.

Danny Potts – I noticed that one of the criteria was the number of cougars treed and that information comes from the houndsmen is that correct?

Leslie McFarlane – We do an annual survey. We ask how many lions they see per day and how many are treed.
Danny Potts – So does that mean that the houndsmen could actually control the number of permits by not providing accurate information?
Leslie McFarlane – I think that would be very difficult to do given that we do a random survey. I'm sure a few could sway it.
John Bair – I have never known a dog man to lie.

Questions from the Public
Shane Carter – How many cougars do the fish and game release from traps?
Leslie McFarlane – It varies by region and we don't ask them to report that to us but based on previous experiences probably 10 or so a year statewide.
Shane Carter – Do you survey tappers on how many lions they catch in a season?
Leslie McFarlane – No we don't. I had a trapper ask me to add trapping as a cougar take method.
Gary Nielsen – Are you going to.
Leslie McFarlane – We'll consider it in the future after I get through this.

Andy Lyon – Manti – Since the permits are being allocated on each unit and the evaluation of harvest being done on an annual basis and that is why you have removed the female sub quota have you considered limited entry then? It would seem to me that is about where you are at.
Leslie McFarlane – I think we'll have to evaluate that and we can work on that as we go through the cougar management plan over the next year.
Andy Lyon – So it is an option?
Leslie McFarlane – Yes. Still the predator management policy would play into that.
Andy Lyon – Absolutely. The predator management units are different and I agree with that. With that being said, could you look at the Manti, Wasatch management area please? What I am seeing on here is there are five units that are not predator management and another five that are. The units that are not predator management units hold one more tag than the predator management units. I'm looking at 45 lions and they are not predator management areas and 44 and they are predator management units.
Leslie McFarlane – The whole unit qualifies but we chose to do half because of big horn sheep.
Covy Jones – Under predator management for deer if a unit falls under 80 percent for one year or under 85 percent for three years according to the plan it can go under predator management.
Andy Lyon – But these units are not listed as predator management units.
Covy Jones – Because we listened to the houndsmen and we chose not to put some of those under predate management. The Southwest, Manti for example. It qualifies and it could be in a split but we listened to the houndsmen, our constituents, and they felt really strongly that it should be limited entry.
Andy Lyon – So what about the Northwest, Manti?
Covy Jones – Again, it all qualifies but we are trying to do the best job we can to manage different interests.
Leslie McFarlane – So it was a happy medium.

Jason Walker – First of all, please don't let your job drive you to drink. Second of all, I have been running dogs for a quite a while and I do appreciate the opportunity for pursuit season. That helps keep our dogs tuned up and that is a privilege I really enjoy. I just have one question. For the past 15 years or so the Nebo, West Face and Timpanogos have been harvest objective and I am just wondering, I'm not seeing it, but have any of you biologists seen an increase in mule deer as a direct result from more cougars being taken?
Leslie McFarlane – That is one thing we are going to look start looking at. We are going to start looking at these areas that are under predator management to see if we can determine if there is any effect or not.

Jason Walker – I'm just a houndsmen but I like to hunt deer too and I haven't seen much of an increase. There are a lot of factors involved.
Leslie McFarlane – We have been talking about this quite a lot lately and that is something I am going to start looking at is trying to analyze if we can determine if there is an effect or not.
Covy Jones – I think to further answer that question is that we also have big horn sheep in those two areas and it's not just for deer
Jason Walker – I understand that.
Covy Jones – And further, it is one of the factors that we can control. If we are losing x-percent to roads and x-percent to weather, there are certain factors that we can't control but we can control for predator take on populations.

James Wilde – I hunt the Fillmore, Oak Creek area and I was wondering what the data is that shows that unit needs to be harvest objective now instead of split.
Leslie McFarlane – We recently released big horn sheep into that unit so that is the reason for the transition.

Comments from the Public
Ken Strong – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – We would like to thank the Division and those groups involved in redoing the cougar plan and looking over the situation and coming up with this new plan. Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife like the plan and we support it 100 percent. Thank you.

Randall Cox – I support Andy Lyon on the limited entry. I think if you change the units to limited entry except for the predator management units I think you would have more control over the lion numbers. If you had a unit with too many put more tags on it.

Andy Lyon – Sanpete Valley Houndsmen – I come before you again this year to ask you to consider some of the issues. Last year, you the RAC and the big game Board directed the DWR to have a management plan together for this year. They have waited until the last minute and quickly put a plan together that is substandard and they have let the sportsmen down. We asked last year for unit by unit management which has not happened. It appears on the surface that it is unit by unit but if you look at plan it is all based on management areas yet again. We asked last year for all the Manti units to go to limited entry and you gave us that, which I appreciated. It was later taken away at the big game board. This year they have completely taken away the female sub-quota on all units or areas. As I review this plan presented the only thing that really stands out is the fact that never again will sportsmen be able to come and say a unit is being way overharvested. That is completely taken out. If there is no female sub-quota on units they can be overharvested as they have been in the past. Never again will the opportunity to close them exist under the new proposed plan. By waiting until the next year to adjust the numbers on the units we believe that it will be too late and some of the damage will be done. If permits are going to be allocated to each unit as proposed in the new plan and this is the reason the female sub-quotas have been eliminated then why not change the units to limited entry? There is no reason they shouldn't be. If the female sub-quotas are gone and they are not a predator management unit there is no reason why they shouldn't be a limited entry unit. I would ask the RAC to review the Wasatch, Manti cougar management area. As I look at this it puzzles me as to why the Central Mountain, Manti units which are not predator management have more tags than those that are predator management units. I would like the RAC to consider the following; change all Central, Manti units to limited entry, reduce the permit numbers on the Central, Manti units. They are not predator management units but have more tags than predator units in this area. Change all split units statewide to limited entry units as it appears none of these are predator units. There may be a couple. The female sub-quota has been removed and numbers are being reviewed annually anyway so it should not matter and only makes sense for these to be limited entry. Ask that

individuals who harvest a cougar turn in a GPS location of the harvest. We would like cougars to be counted on the proper units. I believe that it is time we start managing cougars as we do all other game. We limit the amount of animals in all species harvested. We also limit the amount of females in all species harvested and in most cases we do not allow any females to be harvested. This is for obvious reasons. I ask that this RAC committee does the right thing and makes the proper game management decisions here tonight. Thank you for your time.

Earl Hansen – Fairview – I would just like to ask the committee to make the Manti units limited entry units. The last three or four years we have lost a lot of our lions in our area. We have been hit hard. If we get a good snow storm every guide in our area is able to hit the area. If the snow hits by Manti, they hit Manti. If the snow hits by Fairview, they hit Fairview. We are getting pounded. We've taken a hit and I would ask that you put these into limited entry units.

Robert Olson – Fairview – I support the Utah Houndsmen Association recommendation that you will be hearing. I also support the Sanpete Valley Houndsmen recommendations. The Central Mountains, Manti units have been overharvested for the last three years with this previous plan and are in dire need of some protection. The permit numbers are too high for the small population that is there. They are needing some help to be able to recover to a healthy cougar population which is a goal of this plan. Last year there were seven cats harvested on the Manti, Northwest. That was hammered by outfitters from March to May. They were there about every day, several of them covering the whole unit and they were still only able to kill seven cats. This year we are allowing ten permits to be harvested on that unit. There are not ten cats there. They could only find seven cats on that unit last year being hammered. I would like to see last year's harvest help this year's permits and ten permits is too many. There are several other units that are in the same predicament. Leslie, I appreciate your efforts and I wish you luck. Thank you.

Dan Cockayne – I am president of the Utah Houndsmen Association – In the first page of the cougar management plan it talks about the history from the time we settled this country until 1966 we persecuted cougars as vermin and some days I think we are continuing that. We appreciate these guys and we work with them and will continue to work with them but a little history is in order I think because a year ago we went to all the RACs and the RACs brought recommendations to the Wildlife Board and it was a mess. At that point they said let's fix it. It was time to review and we didn't review. We said let's fix it. We didn't do anything to fix it until towards May and we met one time as a cougar advisory group and we came up with a part of a plan and we were waiting for some information from the science and then we had a change in personnel and then we had a meeting in July and were proposed a totally different plan and now you see a version of that here. One thing that we are really concerned that it does is that it takes all the emergency brakes away. That female sub-quota was an emergency break. These things that we are calling quotas are thresholds limits. That means we never thought we should kill more lions than that. Not quotas, not we have to go kill these things. Those are threshold limits. So what we have come to is a part of a plan that nobody agrees with. Here is what we would ask you to do and we are not here to point fingers, we are here to work this out but predator management units should have been reviewed last year to see if they should go on or off but that got passed over because we were going to fix it. There were a lot of things that should have happened that didn't because we were going to fix it and then we failed to fix it. We need to take a step back, if it is going to take another year we need to put that emergency break back on. We would ask that you reject the plan as proposed, that we accept the unit by unit, we all think that is important. We add the female sub-quota back in and set it at 40 percent. That 40 percent number came from Dr. Stoner who was going to review that and see exactly where that should be. He thought between 40 and 50 percent. Now it's gone away. This 40 percent has come up in this other deal and it's not science. We would also ask that we consider a female a female. They are. We also ask that you require a GPS location. That request came to us to support that from the

conservation officers. It is a tool. If they lie or tell the truth we can make a case either way. If they tell the truth we can walk out there and find where they killed the lion. If they are lying we can find that they didn't kill a lion there. It's just a tool. I spent a career in law enforcement and I don't understand the hesitation for one other tool to enforce game laws. We also would support all of the split units that aren't under predator management to go to limited entry and we would have a better tool to control the harvest. Right now on the first of March it is a timed event. If there are three tags left and there are 40 guys that want to kill one it is a timed event so you have to kill the first one. If it's a limited entry you can be selective in your harvest and enjoy the harvest and it will balance out. Thank you for your time. And I will answer any questions you have.

Leslie McFarlane – Mr. Chairman, can I ask Dan a question?
Gary Nielson – Yes, please.
Leslie McFarlane – When you are asking for the female sub-quota which units are you asking that it be applied to because that is not clear in your proposal?
Dan Cockayne – We would like it applied everywhere until we have the time to review everything and we understand that some units may close before we hit that threshold but if you are asking for time we are asking for time. We think that we need to properly review the plan. When this plan was written they met eight times and they came to a plan that was unanimous. As time has gone one we figured the plan may not have been the best. Now we had one meeting with a couple other people and we presented that plan and we don't think it has had near enough review or time. We are asking you not to take the emergency break off yet.

Aaron Carter – I see no issue with these guys wanting the GPS location for cats that are being killed because even in the coyote plan we are asking for a GPS location. I don't see that being that big an issue to ask for that. The rest of the plan I think looks pretty good. Thanks.

James Wilde – I agree with the GPS location. We do need GPS locations on where cats have been killed. We do have a couple people out there that do kill cats on a unit and they actually go and buy the auction tags where it covers a large unit and they go to a specific unit in their backyard to kill those cats and those aren't recorded and I think those ought to be as well.
Leslie McFarlane – What is to stop someone from making up a point?
James Wilde – Very true.
Leslie McFarlane – I have discussed the GPS location with some. For the past 12 years I have been requiring locations off hunter harvested deer and elk for chronic wasting disease testing. It is something that is very difficult to enforce or make people do. We have resorted to having maps at check stations and having them point on the map. I realize there are a lot fewer cougar hunters than big game hunters and all I'm saying is that if you implement that it becomes an unenforceable rule.
James Wilde – So you are assuming that every single houndsman out here is a liar.
Leslie McFarlane – No, I'm not saying that at all. What happens is you make the honest people more honest and the dishonest people more dishonest.
James Wilde – I guarantee that 90 percent of the houndsmen here are running GPS so we can give you an exact location of where that cat was taken where big game cannot.

Dan Cockayne – Our DWR officers in our county could have made a couple cases last year. Casey Mickelsen and Preston Mickelson which I have had a conversation with them and they are all for this and they could have made a couple cases where there were some lions they believe were taken on private property had they been able to find that.

RAC Discussion

Leslie McFarlane – One thing I would say is that through these comments and questions it appears that they feel that the safety brake has been taken off but quite honestly we feel where we are reviewing permits on an annual basis and are looking at harvest on an annual basis we feel that we can respond to an overharvest with the permits that we recommend the next year. It absolutely should not apply to limited entry units. There is no way we can get the harvest on limited entry units that we need to get. One example I will give you is on the Cache this last year. The female quota was met during the limited entry portion of the hunt and it essentially shut down all of the units in the northern part of the state. Some of those units are units that we have urban and nuisance problems with mountain lions on the Wasatch Front and we needed that harvest. And it basically made it so we couldn't get the harvest that we needed. That is my say on the female sub-quotas. And the other thing is that it wouldn't work on predator management units because those units are under predator management to lower the mountain lion population so you shouldn't be limiting the female take because you are trying to decrease the population in those areas.

Richard Hansen – On this limited entry proposal that you have as I think about that does that not favor a particular group? Only people who are maybe a member of the houndsmen association that want to hunt cougars. You don't do that for yourself most of the time. You do that because you love the sport and you charge people money to do that?
Houndsmen – It is against the law to charge unless you are a licensed guide.
Richard Hansen – My concern is if you go to limited entry only then a guy like me who goes out and sees a cougar once in a while just hiking can't hunt. It doesn't happen very often but are we taking away their opportunity at that point because the guys with the hounds are the ones that are going to dominate that limited entry unit.
Houndsmen – No, because it is a draw.
Richard Hansen – If it is limited entry that is true but if it is a split unit then a guy could just go buy a tag and once the limited entry season ends you can still keep hunting it and a guy like myself can just go hiking in the mountains and find a cougar. It takes that away from them.

Randall Cox – Just like hunting elk, you have to put in for elk and once you draw then you can hunt. I can't see a difference between the limited entry deer and elk and the lions. You can control the lions more on a limited entry hunt and you can put more tags on the areas that need to be hunted or less tags on other areas.
Richard Hansen – But once you hit the number of cougars taken they close the unit. It doesn't matter if it's limited entry and harvest objective.
Houndsmen – Under the new plan, no. Under the new plan there would be no closures once the females are taken.
Leslie McFarlane – If you look at split units for example on the Ogden unit we are allowing 14 animals to be harvested. It doesn't matter what sex they are, 14 animals can be harvested. When we take a look at that next year we will look at the percent based on our current criteria and if 40 percent or more females were harvested then we would decrease permits the next year.
Richard Hansen – That is a point of clarification I would like to have is on a particular unit and you have a harvest objective as soon as that is met do you close the unit?
Leslie McFarlane – Yes.
Richard Hansen – If that is true then it doesn't really matter if it is limited entry or harvest objective.
Leslie McFarlane – I gave that in the early definitions. On a harvest objective or a split unit once that number of animals are harvested that unit closes or when the season date ends.
Gary Nielson – I think having it evaluated every year is going to help a great deal. If you get too many females for an area then you can adjust.

Karl Hirst – If you did go limited entry on the Central Mountain units and right now we are trying to kill ten cats how many limited entry tags would that be to try to kill ten?
Leslie McFarlane – On the split?
Karl Hirst – On your split right now it shuts down once ten are killed but how many tags would you have to issue?
Leslie McFarlane – So what you have is limited entry dates so those people draw a permit and then there is a transition period and on that date people with harvest objective permits can come in and once ten lions are harvested it closes.
Karl Hirst – I get that but if we go into limited entry how many tags would you have to issue if you want to try to kill ten? Would you issue 20 tags or 25 tags?
Leslie McFarlane – We may have to increase tags to get the harvest that we want.
Karl Hirst – So with the 40 percent females if we issue 20 tags then we could kill possibly 8 females real easy so limited entry could actually allow you to kill more females than split.
Leslie McFarlane – The split units came about as a way to try to increase harvest in areas where the limited entry harvest was not equaling what we wanted to take out of those units. That is why the split units exist to try to increase the pressure and the take because the limited entry at the time was not meeting the needs that we had.

Danny Potts – Could you show a picture of Utah. What I found real interesting in a presentation that we recently saw as a RAC was that a radio collared female in central Utah wiggled its way all the way to Colorado and came all the way back across and ended up somewhere back in the center of Utah. Just from my perspective that makes me feel uncomfortable with trying to manage little tiny areas.
Leslie McFarlane – That is where the confusion comes. When we look at the data we look at larger areas overall because it is really hard to take and pigeon hole a mountain lion in a little tiny unit. When you look at that map those colored areas represent the area that we look at all cougar data for and then we take that and run all of our models and that is what determines the number of permits based on the female harvest and all of that from the previous year and then we know how many permits we can have in each area and we start assigning them to units.
Danny Potts – I get that but my point is if one female cut across those colored areas…
Leslie McFarlane – We try to take areas that represent what we feel would be typical range for those animals in that area and we also tie it to deer units.
Danny Potts – I understand all that but it seems like we have micro-managers and macro-managers.

Timothy Fehr – Could you go back to the first chart that listed the groups involved in the preparation of the plan?
Leslie McFarlane – There was one other meeting that I held after this which was with the Sanpete Valley Houndsmen. I didn't put that on here because I made this slide before I met with them. So I met with the Utah Houndsmen Association with Dan and Aaron. I met with United Wildlife Cooperative with Chad Coburn and with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife with Byron Bateman and then after I also met with Kirk Robinson who is the non-consumptive user and then I met with the Sanpete Valley Houndsmen to discuss this proposal.
Timothy Fehr – So it sounds to me like you followed the direction you got from the Wildlife Board and the direction from the legislature which was to revisit the plan and you have come up with a plan which is here. And we have a group that doesn't like the plan even though they were supposedly part of the preparing it.
Leslie McFarlane – What I felt was unfair was that we couldn't have time to really hash out the details of the plan. That is why I am asking for the full year to go through and actually work with these guys as a group to change the plan. Make it simpler and have it apply everything unit by unit and put in parameters that we are all comfortable with.

Timothy Fehr – So it sounds to me like we should go ahead with the plan you presented and get the people involved. But to just say we are not going to accept the plan I don't think that is an acceptable position.

VOTING
Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the plan as proposed by the Division
Seconded by Jay Price
Motion passed 8 to 2, 1 abstention

Motion was made by Karl Hirst to require a GPS location on cougar harvests
Seconded by Christine Schmitz
Motion failed 4 to 6, 1 abstention

7) <u>Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations</u> (Action)
- **Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
<u>Questions from the Public</u>
Al Robb – Why do the season dates for most of the furbearers begin in September before the furs are actually really prime?
Leslie McFarlane – Those were set in the plan and we are held to the dates in the plan.

? – Are the Board members receptive to receiving comments through mail or email?
Gary Nielson – They are and our addresses are on the Division's website. Feel free to access those and send anything you would like.

Ken Butler – I would like to know why you set the bobcat season back so far to when it snows so bad we can't get up into the high country and target the cats up there that have never been targeted. We get all the cats down low where there is so much pressure. Those cats are wiped out. We should have a little bit earlier season to where we can get up high and get to them without too much trouble and take the pressure off the lower cats.
Leslie McFarlane – The proposal is to start November 19th until February 8th.
Ken Butler – It used to open the first of November and we could get in the high country now we can't.
Leslie McFarlane – The current plan starts it then.
Gary Nielson – I know the cats down on the flats aren't anywhere near ready that early.
Ken Butler – But you get them up high and you can't get up there later because the Forest Service has the gates shut. Even with snowmobiles a lot of it is inaccessible.

<u>Comments from the Public</u>
Sterling Butler – I love to trap. That is basically all I do during the winter. If you up the cat tags I am not old enough to get a job and I was just wondering how I'm supposed to get tags?

Shad Eva – I would like to speak about the 48 hour check law. I understand that for bobcats but that is one furbearer and trapping covers all furbearers and with a 48 hour check you basically have to quit your job to check you traps. There is no trapping and doing it legally to keep a line going the way it should and make money at it. It's basically a crap shoot.
Gary Nielson – It's pretty hard with the 48, I agree.

Kent Fowden –Utah Trappers Association – We support the proposal as proposed by the Division with one request for an amendment that we extend the season by two weeks. We feel that will help with juvenile survivability and as Mr. Butler stated it may allow some access.

Gary Nielsen – So you are talking about on the front end?
Kent Fowden – Most trappers are after mature toms and they move later in the season. Access is an issue but they do move more later and they kill kittens. That is our belief. Thank you.

Kade Eva – I wanted to say about the 48 hour check law there would probably be more people willing to trap if the stipulation on the check period wasn't so short. That would also help with the revenue with your furbearer sales.

Gary Neilson – I have received a lot of phone calls and people talking to me as well having to do with the 48 hour rule and how it would dramatically increase the coyote harvest too. But I remember last time we met about this there were all the unintended consequences that everyone was really worried about. At some time I think we ought to revisit it because it is not realistic at all for a long liner.

Ken Strong – SFW – We also would like to accept the proposal made by the Division with the exception that the season has two weeks added to the end as for what Kent Fowden said and he explained in his proposal.

Aaron Carter – I just want to agree with what they proposed and what the Utah Trappers and also SFW have proposed.

RAC Discussion
Richard Hansen – I would like to revisit at a future RAC meeting the trap check law. We really hashed this out and I think some of it came more from an emotional standpoint than from what really works and I would like to revisit that and hopefully they will put that on the agenda. Also I would like to support the proposal that was made to add two weeks to the season for bobcat.

Sarah Flinders – I just want to clarify. Are we asking for two weeks prior or two weeks onto the end of the season?
Leslie McFarlane – Their request is two weeks on to the end of the season in February because they felt that the male harvest would increase at the end of the period.
Sarah Flinders – Which would increase access?
Leslie McFarlane – The males are more active that time of the year so there is thought that because they are more active they are easier to catch.
Sarah Flinders – So we are not trying to alleviate the access issue.
Leslie McFarlane – That is not the Division's proposal. That was because we felt like we are being so liberal going back after three years limited we didn't want to all of the sudden increase one more parameter.

George Holmes – Is there a reason that there is a 48 hours trap check rule?
Leslie McFarlane – A lot of it has to do with trying to get animals out of traps before public sees animals fighting in a trap or that type of thing.
Bill Bates – There is actually a long history with the 48 trap check rule and it goes back to the humane treatment of animals. The best management practices that have been worked out by the national trappers association and by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the recommendations they have is to go to traps with center coil springs and offset jaws and things like that. I think as best management practices improve maybe that would be a time you could look at a change in the trap check but that is what it has been about is humane treatment of animals.

Timothy Fehr – Just clarification for me, the proposal that we are dealing with has nothing to do with the 48 hour trap check?

Gary Nielson – Right, it would have to be treated separately. We could make a recommendation to look into that in the future.

VOTING
Motion was made by Matt Clark to accept the furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations as presented with an amendment that we add on two weeks to the end of the season
Seconded by Richard Hansen

Jay Price – If we add two weeks I think it is like Leslie said, we are already adding to the harvest, is that going to add too much so that next year we are needing to adjust the harvest down.

Gary Nielson – I agree with you in some of that. Making it too liberal all at once is not as good idea as creeping it along and seeing what the affect was. If everybody gets six cats.

Leslie McFarlane – Because of this question in the other RACs I put together some data looking at the proportion of males in the bobcat harvest by week and you can see that towards the end of the season we haven't seen an actual increase. The white line here is actually the average of all these years. So the harvest of males by week actually tends to stay pretty stable. I also have females and it is at a lower lever but has the same trend by week. I have bobcat harvest by week. The huge jumps are areas where we didn't have data so it goes from zero up to there. So ignore the huge jumps or falls. It is just because we didn't have the data.

Sarah Flinders – If the sportsmen are looking for the later weeks in February and you don't want more weeks does it make sense to shift the whole season later?
?- Snow hits early December and since the season has been shortened the last five or six years, the season used to be a month longer than it is right now. We need two weeks on one end or the other, we need a longer season because our traps are out of commission when we get heavy snow years like we have in the past.
Sarah Flinders – It's not all about the end when the cats are more active, it's more time.

VOTE

Motion passed 9 to 2

8) <u>Deer Management Plans</u> (Action)
- **Covy Jones, Regional Big Game Coordinator**

<u>Questions from the RAC</u>
Danny Potts – At one point deer were entering the cities almost by accident. Now we have established populations that are essentially habituated. Right across the street from the U of U football stadium Mt. Olivet Cemetery might was well be a zoo. One of the organizations that I represent, the Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association, we get all your calls. You evaded that by changing your name. It is very common to get a call about once a week from somebody who is just irate about the deer in their neighborhoods. So keeping deer out, we are a day late and a dollar short on that count so what can we tell these people in terms of dealing with these problematic deer that are essentially living in downtown West Valley City or Holladay.
Covy Jones – I should state that the deer plans focus on population management and not on urban deer issues and it would be inappropriate for us to go down that road in a deer plan. We are charged with population management as biologists and we negate a lot of the stuff that is going on in city limits in these plans and that is by design. However we are working really hard to try to address some of that on another front. We have had a very successful hunt in Highland. They removed 74 animals, over 5,000 pounds of meat which was donated to needy families and the

homeless shelters. When you do the calculations based on what the homeless shelter dishes out it's about 33,000 meals. We have been approached by Herriman and we are working with Herriman. We have been approached by Provo and are working with Provo. We have been approached by Mapleton and we are working with Mapleton. So I guess if the phone call comes into you Danny, what I would say is the Division doesn't have the resources to address all these problems by themselves and cities have to take some responsibility because we don't institute no weapons ordinances, we don't say that you can't hunt inside city limits. They have to take some of that responsibility upon themselves and they have. Several cities have and they are excited to partner with us and look at both control programs using lethal removal and trapping and transplanting, nonlethal removal, where appropriate. I think we all know that nonlethal removal can be very expensive and with town deer probably not very successful.

Sarah Flinders – All of us partners are working really hard to improve the habitat up there so they stay there and we need to stop feeding them down here.
Covy Jones - We made some signs, no deer zones and we have started to put them out…

Richard Hansen – You mentioned aspen. Do you want to encourage aspen growth?
Covy Jones – Absolutely Richard. If you know a little bit of mule deer biology Forbes and the tall aspen forb complex is very important to producing milk so if we want to have healthy fawns we need healthy aspen stands. It also increases the amount of water on the ground and when you start to get conifer encroachment into aspen we lose water, we lose the tall forb complex and we lose healthy mule deer populations. They don't have the ability to put on fat for winter. The fawns won't make it and the adults struggle as well.
Richard Hansen – So you need to talk to Sarah and there are some places I know where you need to take out the conifers. You are the one who can really get that done.
Sarah Flinders – Just me? I am.
Covy Jones – And they have been. It's hard sometimes because a lot of times fire is the only thing that will work in those areas and on a major water shed it is hard to light a fire but we are working through that.
Richard Hansen – That is why they call them prescribed burns now and not controlled burns because they don't always get controlled.

Questions from the Public
Gerald –Eureka – In particular unit 19 the post season buck ration has been down since we went to the 30 units. The deer numbers are below the harvest objective on the whole unit so why have our permit numbers increased instead of decreased trying to bring those numbers back in line with the current plan?
Covy Jones – Are you talking about Vernon or the rest of 19?
Gerald – The rest of 19. Your population objective is 11,000 something and you are at 89,000 now.
Covy Jones – I can look that up. There are two things that we are talking about here. If we are talking about mule deer we harvest bucks and bucks don't drive populations.
Gerald – Post season bucks is also low, both numbers are low.
Covy Jones – I can tell you that if numbers are low we follow the plan and we recommend a decrease in permits. If the numbers are up we follow the plan and recommend an increase in permits.
Gerald – The Divisions recommendation this past year for this year's hunts was insufficient data.
Covy Jones – That is not what I am saying.
Richard Hansen – You go on a three year average anyway so sometimes it's not automatic one year.
Gerald – The three year average is still below the goal if the permit numbers haven't changed. When we went to the 30 units permit numbers increased from the year prior.

Covy Jones – There are a couple units here. There is West Desert, West. You are talking about the Eureka unit.
Gerald – Both units the numbers are in the negative. The Vernon area itself, there are deer there.
Covy Jones – The Vernon area itself is the one that is down. Can we stop and distinguish two things here. If you let me distinguish this I can do this for you. We would never increase permits if our buck to doe ratio is below that. We follow the plan. We make a recommendation to remain stable. The other thing you are talking about is the population. The population is not driven by bucks. If you have five to seven bucks per 100 does you will fertilize every doe. That means that your population is driven by your does. Again we would never recommend an increase. I know that's not the case.

Luke McGallen – I have a question, is habitat work done mainly by the state or is that Forest Service?
Covy Jones – The habitat work that we do is done a lot by the BLM and a lot by the Forest Service. We partner and design projects together and work together on all of this and that is because of WRA.
Luke McGallen – If you are looking for help with that would you ask the BSA for help doing scout projects?
Covy Jones – Absolutely, in fact we do a lot of projects with BSA. When we have smaller scale projects we do work a lot with BSA and eagle scouts.

Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the proposal as presented by the Division
Seconded by Richard Hansen
Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:20
45 in attendance
Next board meeting August 28, 2014 9 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake
Next RAC meeting September 16, 2014 6:30 p.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
August 6, 2014
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Summary of Motions

Meeting Begins: 6:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda
Motion: Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Approval of the May 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Motion: Move to approve the May 15, 2014 meeting minutes.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Turkey Depredation Rule –New Rule R657-69
Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Rule R657-69 as presented with the addition that buffer zones would exclude public lands.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations
Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations as presented.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations
Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Meeting Adjournment
Motion: Move we adjourn.
Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair
Meeting Ends: 8:22 pm.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
August 6, 2014
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:03 p.m.

RAC Present	DWR Present	Wildlife Board
Robert Byrnes- Chair, At Large	Jodie Anderson	
Paul Cowley- Forest Service	Justin Dolling	
James Gaskill- At Large	Randy Wood	
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large	Darren Debloois	
Jon Leonard- Sportsman	Devin Christensen	
Kristin Purdy- Nonconsumptive	Brandon Baron	
Bryce Thurgood- At Large	Corrie Wallace	
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman	Leslie McFarlane	
John Wall- At Large	Kenny Johnson	
	Kirk Smith	
	Krystal Tucker	
	Blair Stringham	
	Jason Robinson	

RAC Excused
John Blazzard- Agriculture
John Cavitt- Nonconsumptive
Russ Lawrence- At Large

Unexcused
Joel Ferry- Agriculture
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM

Agenda:
Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda
Approval of May 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Turkey Depredation Rule –New Rule R657-69
Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations
Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations

Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Welcome: Robert Byrnes, Chair
Introduction of RAC Members
RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Item 2. Approval of Agenda
Motion: James Gaskill- Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.
Second: Paul Cowley
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Approval of April 16, 2014 Minutes
Motion: James Gaskill- Move to approve the May 15, 2014 meeting minutes.
Second: Bryce Thurgood
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Robert Byrnes, RAC Chair
RAC Chair emailed the Council information on the Wildlife Board's actions.

Item 4. Regional Update
Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

New Conservation Officer Trevor Doman and Accounting Technician LuAnn Green.

Wildlife Section- CWMU applications and renewal applications. Preseason elk and pronghorn classifications and surveys. Cache biologist updating Willard mountain goat plan. Archery hunt forecast west half of region, From I-15 to Nevada is dry, the animals will be clustered around water. East half is just the opposite with water conditions good, animals will be scattered and high.
Habitat Section- Busy controlling weeds on wildlife management areas and working on wildlife management area plans. Habitat project for big game in the Uintah's.
Outreach Section- In the process of trying to formalize the new wildlife recreation program. The walk in access program is now in Outreach Section.
Administrative Section- Swan applications start August 26th through September 4th. Leftover muzzleloader tags are available.
Aquatics Section- Biologists finishing up summer flat water surveys.

Item 5. Turkey Depredation Rule –New Rule R657-69
Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Comment

James Gaskill- Does allowable weapons mean there may be weapons that will be prohibited during a regular hunt that would be allowed during a depredation hunt?
Jason Robinson- Probably not for the depredation but there may be other weapons allowed for the use of the controlled permits at the discretion of the landowner and the division.
James Gaskill- Do the controlled permits cost anything?
Jason Robinson- If it's to the landowner, then they can get those for free. If someone has a voucher then there would be a fee associated.
James Gaskill- They don't have to buy a turkey permit but they have to pay the same amount of money as if they did.

Jason Robinson- They would redeem the voucher in for a turkey permit which would be the same price as a regular permit.
James Gaskill- I seem to recall in reading the proposal that there was a provision for the landowner to trap and transfer turkeys. Can you explain that and give me a little bit of the justification?
Jason Robinson- That was in the original law that was passed by the state legislature and carried into this rule. The division would still have to ok that and approve that. I don't see us using it much.
Kristin Purdy- If the landowner has the logistical ability to capture the turkeys, where are they going to relocate them to if they are not part of the division.
Jason Robinson- The division would have to be a part of that process. The release would have to be with division approval in one of the approved transplant spots.
Kristin Purdy- There would be quite a bit of interaction between the landowner and division to allow the landowner to do this capture on his own without it being led by the division.
Jason Robinson- The division would be very involved.
Jefre R. Hicks- What is the reason behind the vouchers and giving a free pass to anyone they want?
Jason Robinson- Not all landowners hunt and not all feel comfortable harvesting an animal. This would allow them to still deal with the problem but allow someone who is more skilled or more interested in hunting to go onto their property and harvest a bird.
Paul Cowley- You talked about the hunt area for the depredation and control permits.
Jason Robinson- Within the rule we allow for up to a 2 mile buffer. We are trying to help the landowner with the problem. It gives the division, in most cases the hunt will take place where the damage is occurring. We wanted to have the ability, if there are multiple landowners adjoining together having issues, that we can offer one hunt and a person can hunt on those properties. The buffer allows us to have flexibility to include multiple landowners.
Paul Cowley- How do you see that as you bring in public lands within that two mile buffer, what would occur there?
Jason Robinson- It would be very rare to include public lands. The main purpose of these controlled permits is to help landowners with problem turkeys.
Bryce Thurgood- Do you think it would be a stretch, when a landowner comes and says they have a problem, to be able to work with sportsman's groups?
Jason Robinson- The controlled permit voucher is set up that it is up to the landowner. I think if they wanted to work with various groups, it is their decision.
Bryce Thurgood- You guys have to encourage them because they would not think of it on their own.
Jason Robinson- I think we could.

Motion

Motion: Paul Cowley- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Rule R657-69 as presented with the addition that buffer zones would exclude public lands.
Second: James Gaskill

Discussion on the Motion

Robert Byrnes- Jason do you have any heartburn with that, would that be a problem?
Jason Robinson- I think we could make it work. It could limit us in very rare circumstance but I think we could make it work.
James Gaskill - If all landowners involved have to sign on to it, that for example you would have to go to the Forest Service as a landowner. With this it simply says limited to private land. I think it is a reasonable thing to do rather than burden the BLM or Forest Service or whomever else with that kind of thing.
Paul Cowley- One of the reasons I am making that recommendation is if you end up having a private landowner who has the vouchers and they give it to a friend and then goes up on public lands, you basically have an outfitter guide situation. It would then be under a special use permit requirement through the Forest Service. We are trying to avoid that potential conflict that would occur.

Robert Byrnes- Since there is no financial potential, could it actually qualify for that type of relationship? The landowner cannot have any financial gain by giving the voucher to another individual.
Bryce Thurgood- I think as long as it is friends doing it and he doesn't get paid for it, there is no breaking the rules that I know of.
James Gaskill- If the landowner gives it to a guide, it doesn't say that a guide can't make money on it.
Robert Byrnes- I don't think there can be any transfer with financial gain involved. It just says the landowner can transfer it to a third party.
James Gaskill- He couldn't give it to a guide but he could give it to someone that a guide recommended.
Robert Byrnes- Who is being guided potentially. That is a different situation outside of the division's control. If a person has a voucher and then gets the permit and hires someone to guide him, that is beyond the division's control.
Jon Leonard- I see it as an unnecessary to add that. It just adds more complication. As turkeys tend to move back and forth, I can see the need for keeping after that particular flock. I think those are rare exceptions. I am more concerned with the fact that every landowner involved is certainly notified and is agreeable because the last depredation situation, all the landowners were not notified and were pretty upset. That was handled very poorly.
Robert Byrnes- In the buffer area, all the landowners have to sign on in this proposal.
Jon Leonard- Right now, but that was not true last time.
Robert Byrnes- I guess if certain landowners were not willing to sign on, they would have to be excluded from the buffer zone. If they could not get those signatures, they would have to go back and change their mitigation plan to exclude those areas.
Jon Leonard- I would think the Forest Service or any public land management agency, would be considered for the buffer and being included and have the option to opt out.
Robert Byrnes- Paul how long would it take for the Forest Service to approve, if they were required to sign on to the buffer area, it couldn't happen very quickly could it?
Paul Cowley- It opens up the whole discussion on whether or not the Forest Service is making a decision and then whether that decision falls underneath the NEAPA process. If that was ever brought into question, like it has been on other issues, that could definitely hold it up. Thus another reason to make this much more streamlined process and leave it to the private landowners. It has the potential to bottleneck the process.
Jon Leonard- I would think the division is well aware of that and would avoid that.
Justin Dolling- Jason would you clarify why we need a signature? I am thinking about our big game buffers we put around private land that go onto public land. We do not require a signature there. Is there something tied to the law?
Jason Robinson- Not that I am aware of. This is the first time this has been brought up so I have not had a lot of time to dig into the requirements. I don't think I have an answer at this point. It is not written in the law to have a signature.
Paul Cowley- I would think we would want to avoid that situation. As we deal with bears, some of that comes in. We don't see a problem with allowing a bait station there vs. we give you approval to put a station there. There are some wording negotiation that occurs there also.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 6. Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief

See Handout

Public Questions

Paul Roberts- Talking about the muskrat, you seem to restrict that to waterfowl management areas but there are some other areas that muskrat do a depredation job. Any earthen and fish farm ponds, Pioneer pond and also probably all the other urban fishery ponds, small irrigation reservoirs and some of the ponds out by Willard Bay.

How can they be included in getting rid of muskrat program economically as well as in times of low muskrat fur prices?
Kenny Johnson- It is a fair question and I don't know if I have an answer. Our concern is protecting those levees. The 12 areas identified are why we are talking about it tonight. I hope there are some market influences that push people to those areas and naturally the trappers are attracted to those places and getting access and removing them. I hope there is a natural market incentive for that to happen.
Leslie McFarlane- This is just to deal with the muskrat trapping on our managed state lands. If you advertised or got a hold of the trappers association, I am sure you could get participation on your areas or areas like that just by contacting them.
Brett Schmidt- Increase in the bobcat tag fee from 5 to 15, are we also increasing the number of tags an individual can have as well as the number of tags the state is giving out.
Kenny Johnson- There were two projections and the first one was based on what we sold last year. You are going to hear a presentation that talks about an unlimited quota and six tags per individual. There is kind of those two projections we did. One was a little higher than the other one.

RAC Questions

James Gaskill- Wondered if you do the same kind of cost benefit analysis, so to speak, with fishing, CWMU's and depredation? I have not ever seen that sort of thing presented to a RAC before.
Kenny Johnson- We do, we look at our fee schedule and balance the two. Last year, the big fee proposal that was taken out with fishing and combination hunting licenses. We do look at that quite often.
Robert Byrnes- Did Justin Shannon talk to you about potentially having a limited entry deer tag similar to the elk premium limited entry tag. I think we talked about it in the deer management committee months ago but I cannot remember what our decision was.
Kenny Johnson- He did talk about it. We talked about including it in this proposal. We wanted to let the discussion happen further with that committee. We thought it was too early to work through it.
Robert Byrnes- So, you are going to try and wait another year?
Kenny Johnson- Yes, I think that is where we ended up.
Kristin Purdy- By overhauling the system by which trappers will enter the bid process, we are recognizing they are really contractors. We are overhauling their status. By requiring them to do a bid process, they are contractors.
Kenny Johnson- In this specific instance, yes. The need on our waterfowl management areas, absolutely. Everywhere else in the state, it is all over the board and there are different reasons people participate. In this instance, it gives us the right people in the right places.
Kristin Purdy- We only have 12 because there are only 12 WMA locations. When a trapper wins a bid, he wins a bid for a location, is that right?
Kenny Johnson- Correct.
Kristin Purdy- Once a muskrat trapper wins one of those bids at one of those locations, is there an unlimited number of trap lines he can run based on securing the one bid?
Kenny Johnson- Yes, at that point, the way I understand it, I think they just work with our property manager and make sure that they work together to make sure they are covering the right places. I don't think there is a restriction on the number of traps or lines.
Kristin Purdy- The number is flexible and they are really being used as a wildlife management tool to get to areas that have suffered heavily from muskrat depredation where in other places, in a particular WMA where the depredation is not bad, they might not run a line there?
Kenny Johnson- Yes.
Paul Cowley- On the cow elk permit, you only have 40 there and yet I think we have got a lot more hunting occurring now for cow elk. I am wondering why that fee wouldn't apply to all cow elk permits?
Kenny Johnson- We didn't want to replace it with all cow elk permits. What we are doing now is getting as close as we need to be. The number is based on the revenue we are trying to project for the legislature. A 2 cow elk permit will cut into what we are offering a little bit. That was just kind of a ballpark of where we thought we might end up.

Robert Byrnes- Would that license be something that we would probably use to address populations on private property where we cannot get people in there?
Kenny Johnson- That is the idea. Where there is limited access and high elk densities.
Robert Byrnes- That will be in a future rule?
Kenny Johnson- Right, exactly.

Public Comment

Kent Fowden- Utah Trappers Association- We are strongly opposed to a 200% increase in the bobcat tags. We feel that if there needs to be an increase, it should be more incremental.

RAC Questions

Paul Cowley- Was it the fee increase or was it really for a discussion later on when we talk about the number of permits being issued for bobcats?
Robert Byrnes- This agenda item is for the potential 2015 fee prices. He is concerned about the potential price increase.

Motion

Motion: Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015 as presented.
Second: John Wall
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 7. Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations
Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Aaron Johnson- Utah Houndsmen Association- When the lion committee met before you took over, they did some work. Is it true they proposed a plan for this year?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes, the problem was that there was one meeting which was May 18th and there were only 4 people present at that meeting. The meeting was held but not all representatives that should have been there providing input into the changes in the plan, nor did they provide input.
Aaron Johnson- Who are those people? The way I understand it, the lion committee is the selected group. You said SFW was not present but didn't they have an opportunity to call back in?
Leslie McFarlane- The response back to them is they could not attend the meeting at that time and another meeting date was not offered. SFW was not present.
Aaron Johnson- Didn't United Wildlife Coalition call in?
Leslie McFarlane- I have no record of that. When we met, they did not indicate that they had ever provided input.
Aaron Johnson- In the future, if a special interest group misses a meeting, are you willing to throw away the plan and rewrite it for us?
Leslie McFarlane- No, in the future, we will have more than one meeting that everybody can provide input so everything will not rely solely on one meeting.
Aaron Johnson- That seems fair. When we spoke in July, there was quite a few other regional biologists. Some of them say that they did not have the opportunity to attend that lion committee but as I read the plan isn't it true that the regional biologists are not members of the lion committee? They are not listed on the plan as lion committee members.

Leslie McFarlane- I think what you are confusing is that the plan itself had not even had review within our internal agency. Once it was sent out within our agency there were some serious concerns over changes that had been made at that meeting.
Aaron Johnson- From who?
Leslie McFarlane- From our internal people. They did not get to provide any input onto any of those changes.
Aaron Johnson- Is that the public fault?
Leslie McFarlane- No, it is completely our agencies fault. We freely admit that because of some personnel issues, the things that we should have done over the past year, were not done and that is why I am here.
Aaron Johnson- I appreciate you owning that and we look forward to working with you in the future. We also spoke at the meeting and you talked about managing lions. Does the division manage mountain lions for mountain lions or do they manage them for deer and elk?
Leslie McFarlane- We have to manage them for the benefit of all people in Utah and that means all user groups. we have to take everything into consideration, not just houndsmen.
Aaron Johnson- Is there a pecking order? Is one species worth more than another in the divisions eyes?
Leslie McFarlane- That is an internal philosophy but no, in my opinion. My job here is now to represent mammals for the state of Utah. We will work with everyone to develop something that benefits everybody.
Aaron Johnson- You mentioned that the wildlife committee instructed the division to take a look at the plan and fix it this year, so this last year that we were suppose to fix it and we failed I guess. We have this temporary one now. Part of your temporary plan was to take out the female sub quota and you talked about that a little bit in your presentation. Is there a scientific management book or scientific study that you are referring to that gave you the idea to take out the female sub quota or is it merely a number issue?
Leslie McFarlane- When I recommend permits here, this is the harvest that we expect to take off of the unit based on the numbers and the population that we determine a unit can sustain. We expect, if we put out 14 permits, you can harvest 14 lions. By putting a female sub quota onto that, you are severely limiting or capping our ability to harvest this. We are trying to maintain populations at a certain level. The Cache unit last year had a female sub quota on it. The unit closed down early, I think it was February 8th. We have some units there that are along the front that we end up with nuisance cougars in town so we need to have the harvest there. Because the female sub quota was met and it was met early, we did not get the harvest there we needed. by having the female sub quota on there, it limits our ability to manage populations. We are stepping back to where we were before we had this plan in place for the last 3 years. We are stepping back to what we had before which is a number of permits and that is what we expect to be harvested. Before, we did not have female sub quotas on those permits.
Aaron Johnson- The lions are broke up in different management styles, limited entry split or harvest objective. On a limited entry hunt if you get 5 lion tags, all 5 of those can be females. There is going to be 5 lions taken off that unit and 5 people have a chance to take it correct?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes.
Aaron Johnson- Removing a female sub quota from a limited entry hunt means nothing.
Leslie McFarlane- When you do a limited entry hunt, you cannot have a female sub quota.
Aaron Johnson- Right.
Leslie McFarlane- You have people who have waited 11 years to draw out for that unit. If you put a female sub quota and somebody waited 11 years and opening weekend they went out and harvested a female opening weekend and those 4 other people do not get a chance to get out, you know how mad the public is going to be. We can't do female sub quota.
Aaron Johnson- That is a misunderstanding on your part of the plan. In essence, the female sub quota affects split unit which turn to harvest objective units.
Leslie McFarlane- Under the previous plan, limited entry harvest counted for that whole unit. We are doing away with that. That is what happened on the Cache. You have people that went out and harvested during the limited entry and harvested females and it shut down the entire unit and we did not get the harvest in the areas that we needed it.
Aaron Johnson- You didn't get the harvest on the harvest objective areas.
Leslie McFarlane- Right, it never transitioned. It closed after the limited entry hunt.
Aaron Johnson- Those female sub quota theory in science is based on that.

Leslie McFarlane- The female sub quota works when you are dealing with large areas and bigger numbers of permits. When you are dealing with fewer than 10 permits, it is too conservative for what we need to manage for.
Aaron Johnson- If you are dealing with fewer than 10 permits, would it be best to manage those areas on a limited entry or split unit?
Leslie McFarlane- Possibly, that is what we can work out when we rework the plan over the next year.
Aaron Johnson- How does the division count cougars or mountain lions. How do they come up with their numbers? Do they count them like deer?
Leslie McFarlane- That is entirely impossible to do so we base it on trends and harvest. What is reported to use through pursuit surveys. We completely rely on trends in our harvest.
Aaron Johnson- Is it fair to say that lion mortality, what is checked in, is basically a huge way to manage the lions. You see how many lions were killed and decide how many are in a specific area.
Leslie McFarlane- we also rely on what you guys as houndsmen tell us.
Aaron Johnson- Unless we are a private property owner with a sheep herd and we tell you there are not too many lions, you would believe that?
Leslie McFarlane- You can look back here in the 90's and we hammered mountain lions. If you look now, we have kind of stabilized our harvest and we are staying at a steady stream. You are not seeing huge jumps in our harvest. If you started to see huge jumps in harvest, it means you probably have a bump in your lion population because you have more people harvesting. You have to consider what is harvested in order to determine. We have to base it on trends.
Aaron Johnson- Even in the future, you are going to look at the number of females killed as a primary factor in lowering or raising tags.
Leslie McFarlane- Absolutely, we are just not going to respond immediately like you are asking. We are going to look at the overall harvest and if it meets whatever level we end up determining as a group.
Aaron Johnson- Last year, being involved in this management plan, they made a lot of different proposals. On a specific unit they said they were going to make a certain unit a harvest objective based on a large management area. On a small unit that typically harvested 10-12 lions a year, the divisions plan last year made it with a potential that 40 lions could be harvested in that area in one year. It was the Bookcliffs. Do you know how many lions were killed on that unit last year?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes, 35.
Aaron Johnson- Is that pretty close to 40? Three times the normal number.
Leslie McFarlane- Yes, I get that.
Aaron Johnson- There is a huge concern from the houndsmen. With some of these management ideas the females could be overharvested in one year and affect the land population for years to come.
Leslie McFarlane- You are also forgetting the Bookcliffs unit is harvest objective because it is under predator management. The deer population, there is less than 60% and has consistently stayed that way. It entered under predator management with a fairly high potential to harvest because we are trying to lower the population there to increase deer.
Aaron Johnson- I don't want to argue that, it was just the fact that the houndsmen came in and said you could potentially kill this many mountain lions and no one believed them.
Leslie McFarlane- If you are putting that many permits there, you have to expect that it is possible.
Aaron Johnson- Sure.
Leslie McFarlane- For us to say it is not possible is not fair because we put it out there that you could.
Aaron Johnson- Without a female sub quota, potentially you could kill 20 female lions in that area.
Leslie McFarlane- On a harvest objective unit which is under predator management, it would not make sense to have a female sub quota if you are trying to decrease the lion population in that area. You target the females in order to decrease the population. A female sub quota on the Bookcliffs would not work because we are trying to lower the population there.
Aaron Johnson- That is for deer?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes.
Aaron Johnson- At all costs.
Leslie McFarlane- Deer and bighorn sheep. That is part of the predator management policy and that is what we have to manage.

Aaron Johnson- We will have to discuss this more. I think the deer goals are outlandish. On the immediacy of we have a problem and we see that 10 females have been killed in an area, that is going to be way over the 40%. Is there a safe stop we can do right now to stop the killing?
Leslie McFarlane- No, it would be addressed the next year with permit recommendations.
Aaron Johnson- The division would not entertain any immediate closures on a unit?
Leslie McFarlane- No, because it falls in line with how we manage prior to this plan which is looking at the harvest. We make recommendations the following year for each unit based on harvest the previous year.
Aaron Johnson- Didn't we talk in July.
Robert Byrnes- Lets focus on the questions on the presentation because we are not really discussing the meeting in July. What we want to do is focus on this presentation and what is on the table.
Aaron Johnson- There is no safety valve to stop a unit this year? We couldn't go to the wildlife board and ask for an emergency closure?
Leslie McFarlane- You could do that but there is not a female sub quota in place that would provide the division the means to close a unit because of female harvest, no.
Justin Smith- Houndsmen- Concern with female sub quota.
Robert Byrnes- Do you have a question?
Justin Smith- How do you feel that is right? It is out of control just because you have these big units. Need to go back to smaller units and the female sub quota is going to wipe them out.
Leslie McFarlane- That is what we did, we went back to smaller units without a female sub quota.

Public Comments

Aaron Johnson- Utah Houndsmen Association- Letter sent out to RAC members. We did everything was asked of us, expressed our opinion and came up with a plan. They threw that plan away and came up with this. We want to work with you to fix the plan. Some of the proposals could greatly affect the lion population, especially in Northern Utah. A female sub quota protects our lion population. Lions are a trophy animal and belongs out there. We would like them to be managed as a trophy animal. We approve of moving the plan to individual units. As you to you reject the DWR's proposal as is presented. In favor of moving it to units. Suggest a female sub quota put in this plan this year while we fix the plan so we do not have a catastrophe next year. Propose law enforcement requires GPS location on all cougars harvested.
John Wall- Don't the houndsmen have the most control over if they don't have the tag themselves or taken somebody out to talk that individual out of a female? Or, convince them that is not the reason they are hunting.
Aaron Johnson- Yes, they do. There are different types of houndsmen. Some do it as a hobby and there are outfitters that do it for a living and are possibly not as motivated to talk them out of a female. To say the houndsmen can control it, yes we can, but what do you tell an outfitter when he is trying to feed his family. Females get killed, that is the reality. It can happen if you pay an outfitter several thousands of dollars to kill a mountain lion and hunt for 7-8 days and get to one tree and it is a female it might be worth $7,000 dollars to you.
Paul Cowley- Based on what I have heard you mention to Leslie tonight, part of what the division has done for this coming year you like and part of it you don't. Yet, you don't like the process. Did I correctly state that?
Aaron Johnson- Somewhat, we thought the process was completed. We went to the meetings and left the meeting with a lion plan and were surprised to find out the division threw all of the work away and came up with this. That part of the process we did not like and hope it does not occur next year.
Paul Cowley- I don't think it will.
Aaron Johnson- I really do look forward to working with Leslie. We don't want to argue, we want to agree with the DWR proposals.
Mitch Herzog- Utah Houndsmen Association- Support the letter sent out and the five things we are wanting to look at and vote on.
Robert Byrnes- Justin Smith would like a female sub-quota.
Bret Selman- I have sat on the lion committee since 2009. I was to the meeting in May. I was not at the July meeting. We have a double check if we have female sub quotas like Leslie is trying to explain, it is not immediate but it is coming if too many females are killed. In my opinion is impossible. These lions that are causing sheep problem, they are on private ground in our back yards and the biggest problems are the females.

We need these cats taken out. We are on a split unit on these areas. It is an industry killer. We are having more and more problems on these ranches. We have lost 26 on one herd this year since June and 14 on another that we found. I think we need a big male sub quota. You said we cut lion tag numbers statewide by 100?
Leslie McFarlane- Part of that is because some of them transitioned to harvest objective so those don't count.
Bret Selman- We are still going to kill 100 less lions in the state than last year and the year before?
Leslie McFarlane- It gets taken up in the harvest objective numbers. Just limited entry and split reduced by 100.
Bret Selman- Okay, thank you.
Mike Schultz- Morgan/South Rich Unit population of cougars and lions increasing drastically.
James Gaskill- Mike and Bret, are you in favor of the proposal or not?
Mike Schultz- I would probably shy away from the female objective unit. I like Leslie's idea of looking at it from year to year instead of just shutting it down. If you are managing to kill lions or have a certain amount of lions, if that starts dropping down below where your objective is then a quota needs to be put in place. To just say statewide, I would probably disagree with that. There are certain areas that have a high population of lions and that would defeat the purpose. In certain areas it fits, statewide I would probably disagree with.
James Gaskill- Bret, do you want to give me a yes or no?
Bret Selman- Yes.
Robert Byrnes- Individual did not want to address the council. Supports the Utah Houndsmen Association.

RAC Comments

R. Jefre Hicks- Each year, we come across this cougar issue and each year the houndsmen bring up issues. They are pretty rational and valid. I think they are again this year. I tend to want to give their opinion some weight. I tend to lean towards wanting to have you revamp this and do it right. A question was brought up about the GPS, would that help you in managing that or is it a law enforcement issue if they had to GPS every kill.
Leslie McFarlane- It is very difficult. We can require it but it becomes an unenforceable thing. It makes the honest people more honest and the dishonest more dishonest. It is not that difficult to create a point anywhere. Honestly, if it is a law enforcement issue, they will be able to figure that out as they work on the case. You can require it and we will try it but it is hard to enforce.
R. Jefre Hicks- It is kind of like having a bike lock. I was just curious about that. I think we ought to give you another year to revamp that. The houndsmen always have some good points but get the short end of the stick.
Bryce Thurgood- If you ask them to tell you where they are at and if they are not honest, I am wondering how honest they are when they say how many lions they have treed. If I was a houndsmen and you asked me if I didn't think there was enough lions, every day I would say zero.
Leslie McFarlane- I think we survey enough people that it accounts for that. You do have honest people out there. It is completely biased and is a hard metric. It is one of the most valid metrics you can use. We try to rely on it but don't base everything on it. It is a secondary target.
James Gaskill- The division has assumed there was the same percentage of liars and so you look at trends more than numbers correct?
Leslie McFarlane- We try to look at trends and base everything on trends to stay steady. We do not want to see huge jumps or falls.
Paul Cowley- I am concerned if we are saying the process did not work well this past year, to put in a three year plan, yet we change the plan anyway. That is not to discount Bret's concern and the issue on his land up there where he is losing livestock. Yet, it seems to me if it has worked for the past 3 years to let it work a 4th year as you revise it for the coming 3 years, might be a better choice than doing a change without the public process through that cougar committee.
Leslie McFarlane- To be honest, it never went a full 3 years. If the Wildlife Board would have not directed us to change it, it would have been part of those 3 years. They directed us to change it because of unhappiness from the public.
Robert Byrnes- I think everyone here on the council has been through quite a few reviews and we do have a lot of houndsmen in our region and have heard these concerns before. We also understand it is impossible to count cougars and it is really a trend. We get both sides here. We have those who say they cannot find cougars and those who say there are too many cougars. Moving forward, hopefully the process will include everyone. It usually works out to be a good process and you can come to some kind of compromise as far as how to approach

it. I know it is going to be as science based as possible. The recommendations for the permit numbers that you made this year are based on the past 3 year average correct?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes.
Robert Byrnes- In the Morgan/South Rich is fairly limited access?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes, it is mostly private property.
Robert Byrnes- So it is going to be fairly hard to control permits there?
Leslie McFarlane- There is a little bit of that but there are houndsmen that know those landowners and have access to those areas. This last year, it closed down before we ever got the opportunity.
Robert Byrnes- Because it was in the Cache region?
Leslie McFarlane- Yes. There was not any real harvest there.

Motion

Motion: James Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Cougar Management Plan Revisions and 2015 Recommendations as presented.
Second: Bryce Thurgood
Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 8. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations
Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See Handout

Public Comment

Kent Fowden- Utah Trappers Association- Support the divisions proposal as written. However, we ask the RAC to vote in favor of the two week extension on the bobcat season on the end of the season.
Justin Smith- Utah Houndsmen Association- In favor of the tag increase. Tags are selling out in one day and are hard to get. Keep the tags down to 3 so everyone has an opportunity.
Leslie McFarlane- We did have concerns over that so we looked back over historical data. The most tags we ever sold were 11,000 back when fur prices were really high we did see an increase in number of tags sold. Harvest never exceeded what we had seen in previous years. It takes a specialized person to trap and kill bobcats. Harvest never really exceeded it even though tags were available.
Stan Bassett- Utah Trappers Association- Support recommendations that Utah Trappers mentioned earlier along with the rest.
Cody Bassett- Utah Trappers Association- Support statement that was presented.
Kenneth Duncan- Not in favor of raising prices or having 2-3 permits.
Robert Byrnes- If the number of permits were unlimited, the houndsmen could still get tags.
Kenneth Duncan- I don't agree with the numbers.
Robert Byrnes- With the number 6, but you do agree with the rest of it.

RAC Comment

R. Jefre Hicks- Extending season a couple weeks out to get a more adult, can you give me your ideas about that?
Leslie McFarlane- I looked at this, just harvest based by week, and I put theses slides in so you could see. Female harvest tends to stay pretty steady and this is from 2007 to this last year. By week, harvest stays pretty steady through week 13. Male harvest is a little higher than females through the whole season but no drastic increase toward the end of the season in the harvest.
Robert Byrnes- Has there been concern in the past about the fur quality towards the end of the season if you extended it?
Leslie McFarlane- The quality is better later in the season. The quality of the hides are better later in the season.

Motion

Motion: James Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented.
Second: Jon Leonard

Discussion on the Motion

Paul Cowley- I am concerned as we go from 3 permits up to 6. That is a pretty big jump, especially when you are still looking at 333 trapping hours per one animal.
Robert Byrnes- Leslie you don't have any information on the effort? I know it went way up when we had a large influx of green hunters. It has been steadily declining as they learn or drop out.
Leslie McFarlane- That is part of it. I don't have the effort here.
Paul Cowley- How many people fill all three of their permits? Do you have that information? Or can you recall an average?
Leslie McFarlane- I don't recall an average. I can get it off my computer if you want me to.
Paul Cowley- I am just thinking that would address that issue if you jump it up to 6 and most folks only get 2 of the 3, that really does not make any difference. If you have a number of people getting all 3 and jumping it to 6 might play in to that.
Robert Byrnes- Are you familiar, in the past, when the pelt prices were up we did get a large influx of hunters?
Leslie McFarlane- That is kind of what we looked at and this might have it on here. This has pelt price with hunters and it also lists the restriction. There were 4,800 permits given out. There were 1,640 permit buyers. There were 1091 hunters of field and of those 825 were successful and the total harvest was 1,870. Bobcat hunters averaged 1.7.
Robert Byrnes- The number that could potentially tag out is very small based on 4,000.
Leslie McFarlane- 4,868.
Robert Byrnes- And you had 1,600 individual hunters.
Leslie McFarlane- Yes. It averaged 2.3 bobcats per hunter.
Robert Byrnes- The success was actually much less than that because you only harvested 825.
Leslie McFarlane- Yes, the successful people averaged 2.3.
Robert Byrnes- I think we are good.

Motion Passes: Unanimous.

Meeting Adjournment
Motion: John Wall- Motion to adjourn.
Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair

Meeting Ends: 8:21 p.m.

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
GREGORY J. SHEEHAN
Division Director

August 11, 2014

Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources
Jake Albrecht, Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Bill Fenimore, Vice Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Utah Wildlife Board Members

RE: 2014 Convention Permit Internal Audit – Rule R657-55

Dear Director Sheehan and Wildlife Board Members,

In accordance with Rule R657-55, an audit of the Convention Permit program has been conducted. This audit is attached for your review and the results will be presented at the Utah Wildlife Board Meeting on August 28, 2014.

If you have any questions please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Sincerely,

Kenny Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

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*

UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Internal Audit of the 2014 Convention Permit Program

Dated August 11, 2014

Background

In accordance with R657-55, an annual audit of the convention permit program has been conducted in 2014. This audit was not performed using generally accepted auditing standards, but is an internal audit designed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Services Section. Our report focuses on verifying that data is secure, and that the drawing procedure used is proper and fair for the permits that were issued. Additionally, we reviewed data regarding the number of applicants, success rates and other efforts related to the drawing procedures and issuance of the permits. We also reviewed revenue amounts retained by the contractor for use on division approved projects, and in future audits will ensure these funds are committed and expended within the parameters of the contract.

Overview

The contract for the wildlife convention permits was awarded to the Mule Deer Foundation in 2010. The award was for a five year contract period that runs from 2012 through 2016. This report covers 2014, but does have some comparative historical data from the outset of the convention in 2007 through 2014.

This report refers to the contract and event as the "Convention", but the Mule Deer Foundation and the co-sponsor, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, refer to this event as the "Hunt Expo."

Findings and Recommendations

Information gathered herein is intended to assist the Division and the Wildlife Board as they ensure contract compliance and allocate permits for the 2014 convention.

This audit was performed by the Division of Wildlife Resources to provide information to the Utah Wildlife Board in order to help make an assessment of program compliance for the 2014 convention. The Division monitored the processes of data collection and input, securing of personal and confidential data received, and performance of the actual computer drawing. Additionally, the Division has performed eligibility checks of successful applicants and alternates that may have been assigned a permit. There were no eligibility issues in 2014. This audit verified application revenue retained by the contractor, as well as permit revenue payable to the division from each successful applicant prior to issuance of the permit. There were no compliance issues in 2014.

One recommendation for 2015 addresses a single preventable print error on the paper applications for one of the turkey hunts. The error was noticed early and fixed manually on the paper applications. We recommend a review of paper applications and hunt information by DWR staff prior to printing paper applications, to ensure accuracy.

Review of handling of personal and sensitive data

The division considers the handling of personal data and information a top priority. Because the contractor conducting the draw is allowed to access DWR data for populating the hunt applications, we have required adherence to protocols that will safeguard that data.

The contractor has two process components regarding sensitive and confidential data from the applicants. For these purposes sensitive and confidential data is defined as social security number, driver's license information, height, weight, gender, hair/eye color.

First is the handling of sensitive information given by applicants at the convention to apply for the drawing. This is done on a paper form completed by the applicant. Once completed and submitted, these forms are cross-shredded on site. No paper applications are retained by the contractor.

Second is the handling of electronic data that is used in the electronic application process. Sensitive data is used by the application for customer lookups into the Division database. This data transmission is through a secure socket layer using 128 bit encryption. Once the customer information is retrieved no sensitive information is stored on the contractor database.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Review of the drawing process

Division of Wildlife personnel go through an extensive review of the draw processes used by GraySky Technologies, the drawing contractor selected to conduct the convention permit drawing. The Division is represented by Greg Evans and Kirk Poulsen of the Utah Department of Technology Services, who reviewed the following:

1) The process of the draw is reviewed for its soundness.
2) The database structure is reviewed to make sure that a customer can't flood a certain hunt by making multiple entries for that hunt.
3) A review of the code is conducted to make sure that there is no chance that a seeded record could exist in the database prior to the assignment of random numbers. This is done to ensure that the result table is empty and no records can be inserted independently of the drawing code. This ensures that a record with an abnormally low random number isn't placed in the table thereby guaranteeing a permit to that record.
4) The code is reviewed to ensure that all records are treated equally in the process that assigns random numbers to the entries. Care is given to make sure that when the random numbers are being assigned, no records are identified to get a number other than a random number which is generated by the system.
5) The code is then reviewed for inserts that may occur after the drawing to make sure that a winning record is not placed in the result table after the assignment of random numbers takes place.

This was an exhaustive and thorough review; no compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Conducting the Draw

The actual drawing was conducted at the Division Office in Salt Lake City on February 18, 2014. Attendees present at the drawing are required to sign a login sheet as shown on Attachment 2. The public are invited to attend the drawing and at least 3 individuals unrelated to the Division or contractors did attend. The draw is then conducted by GraySky Technologies whereupon the following occurred:

1) An impromptu passphrase "Wyatt we love you" was given to the GraySky representative and was witnessed written into the code prior to beginning the draw process. Later this same passphrase was verified to display on the result page to ensure the code reviewed by the Division was the actual code used during the draw.
2) The draw was then run assigning random numbers to applicants hunt choice entries and then sorted in descending order.
3) The results of the draw were printed and immediately given to a Division representative to ensure that there were no edits to the results table.
4) This list was then given to the Division Law Enforcement and Licensing sections to validate eligibility before any results were posted.
5) Any applicants selected through the draw that receive multiple permits for the same species are contacted by the Division and asked to select their preferred hunt choice. The unclaimed permits are issued to alternates.

The passphrase was witnessed being added to the code, and the same passphrase verified at the conclusion of the draw. Results were instantly printed and the process to validate began immediately.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Note about Random Drawings

In any truly random drawing there always seems to be a few "lucky" individuals. Statistically when randomness is discussed it is always possible to view the final result and pick out certain trends, especially with few historical data sets to observe. The key to these trends is that they cannot be predicted prior to the event or drawing. This is the very essence of randomness. Random is not an assurance that an event will be spread evenly across a population, or distributed equally among participants. There were not any abnormalities observed in the 2014 drawing, random or otherwise.

Draw Related Information

The Division reviewed data from the convention regarding application numbers and success rates of the convention. Applicant numbers verified that at least 10,000 individuals attended the convention again in 2014 as was established as a basis for applying for the permit series. The reported number of attendees at the 2014 convention was just over 30,000, with more than 10,000 being formally registered for activities.

Applicant data for years 2007-2014 is as follows:

Year	Applicants	Applications	Gross Revenue @ $5 per App	Average Applications Per Applicant
2007	10,527	205,462	$ 1,027,310	19.52
2008	8,745	138,988	$ 694,940	16.89
2009	9,927	169,123	$ 845,970	17.04
2010	9,700	165,866	$ 847,285	17.10
2011	12,154	196,360	$ 981,800	16.16
2012	**13,388**	**207,870**	**$ 1,039,350**	**15.53**
2013	**14,043**	**197,312**	**$986,560**	**14.05**
2014	**14,148**	**206,506**	**$1,032,530**	**14.59**

No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Resident versus Nonresident Success

Data was reviewed comparing the number of resident applicants versus the nonresident applicants. In the 2014 application period, 86.32% of the applications for the 200 permit series were residents and 85% of the permits drawn were awarded to residents, and 15% to nonresidents. The numbers are similar for the cumulative six years of the convention with 83.97% residents applying and 85.32% of successful applicants being residents.

Other data related to draw success by hunt number and numbers of permits issued by species are attached to this report. These findings are consistent and inline with previous comparisons.

Historical Comparison of Convention Permit Applications and Success Rates

	Average 2007-2014	2014
Total Resident Applications	165,410	178,250
Total Nonresident Applications	28,693	28,256
	185,958	206,506

Percent of Resident Applications	83.97%	86.32%
Percent of Nonresident Applications	16.03%	13.68%
	100%	100%

Permits Issued to Residents	171	170
Permits Issued to Nonresidents	29	30
	200	200

Percent of Permits Resident	85.32%	85.00%
Percent of Permits Nonresident	14.68%	15.00%
	100%	100%

License Sales

The Division requires that anyone applying for a permit at the Hunt Expo must have a valid hunting or combination license at the time of application. To ensure this compliance the programming will not allow applicants to apply without a valid license in the system. For the Hunt Expo in 2014 there were 613 combination and hunting licenses sold on site. The resulting license revenue generated was $30,224.00. The entirety of these funds are owed to the division with the same reporting stipulations as other third party license vendors; the invoice was paid in full promptly.

There were no compliance issues with license sales, reporting, or payment.

Application Revenue

In October of 2012 the Division of Wildlife, Mule Deer Foundation and their partner, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, amended the contract to more clearly account for application revenue. It was agreed that the party awarded the Convention contract retain the same draw administration fee that is provided to the division's current big game draw contractor. The approved application fee for 2014 was $3.01 per application. The amendment provides for this portion to be used for administrative costs incurred by the Convention contractor. The remaining $1.99 shall be used for division approved projects within 2 years of receipt.

In 2014 the Convention draw processed 206,506 applications, generating $1,032,530 in gross application revenue. The retained portion allowable for administrative expenses was $621,583.70; the remaining $1.99 per application dedicated to division approved projects totaled $410,946.94. These fund balances were clearly identifiable, verified, and held separate from other funds in federally insured bank accounts. No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Last year we reported 3 complete and 3 approved projects. This year the division notes 12 projects approved or completed in FY2013 and FY2014 with specified convention permit funds. More detail can be found in attachment 3.

Draw Probability Statistics

The Convention offers a limited number of permits annually and attracts exponentially more applicants who compete for them through the draw process. It should be noted that this dynamic implies a statistically low probability of obtaining a permit. While the draw odds are not a controllable variable or concern of the division, we want to acknowledge the expediency with which this information is made available to the public. The convention contractor publishes these statistics annually on their website prior to the next year application period.

Conclusions

This internal audit was directed at processes involved in the careful handling of applications and data. We believe that with the procedures set in place by MDF, SFW, and GraySky, that the data was properly secured at the convention, and the drawing was conducted in a fair, transparent, and consistent manner.

Funds for division approved projects were verified and accounted for in the prescribed manner, kept separate from other account funds in federally insured bank accounts.

The Division will perform another audit of the 2015 convention and will provide a report including any findings to the Utah Wildlife Board.

We would like to thank the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife for their time, prompt response and their willingness to provide the information requested for the preparation of the audit. Their information was clearly presented and very much appreciated. If there are questions regarding this report, please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Kenneth Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

CC: Gregory Sheehan, Director
Jake Albrecht, Board Chair
Bill Fenimore, Board Vice Chair
Utah Wildlife Board Members
Miles Moretti, Mule Deer Foundation
Byron Bateman, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

ATCH:
1. Current Convention Rule R647-55
2. Attendance log at the computer drawing for permits
3. Approved projects list
4. Listing of specific permits issued by species

Attachment 1

R657-55 – Wildlife Convention Permits

KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Change: February 7, 2011

Notice of Continuation: March 26, 2010

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19

R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife convention permits.
(2) Wildlife convention permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities and attracting a regional or national wildlife convention to Utah.
(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at a convention held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife convention permits.
(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife convention permits per year beginning in 2012 through 2016 to one qualified conservation organization.

R657-55-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.
(2) In addition:
(a) "Conservation organization" means a nonprofit chartered institution, corporation, foundation, or association founded for the purpose of promoting wildlife conservation.
(b) "Special nonresident convention permit" means one wildlife convention permit for each once-in-a-lifetime species that is only available to a nonresident hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah.
(c) "Wildlife Convention" means a multi-day event held within the state of Utah that is sponsored by multiple wildlife conservation organizations as their national or regional convention or event that is open to the general public and designed to draw nationwide attendance of more than 10,000 individuals. The wildlife convention may include wildlife conservation fund raising activities, outdoor exhibits, retail marketing of outdoor products and services, public awareness programs, and other similar activities.
(d) "Wildlife Convention Audit" means an annual review by the division of the conservation organization's processes used to handle applications for convention permits and conduct the drawing, and the protocols associated with collecting and using client data.
(e) "Wildlife Convention Permit" means a permit which:
(i) is authorized by the Wildlife Board to be issued to successful applicants through a drawing or random selection process conducted at a Utah wildlife convention; and
(ii) allows the permittee to hunt for the designated species on the designated unit during the respective season for each species as authorized by the Wildlife Board.
(f) "Wildlife Convention Permit series" means a single package of permits to be determined by the Wildlife Board for:
(i) deer;
(ii) elk;
(iii) pronghorn;
(iv) moose;
(v) bison;
(vi) rocky mountain goat;
(vii) desert bighorn sheep;

(viii) rocky mountain bighorn sheep;
(ix) wild turkey;
(x) cougar; or
(xi) black bear.
(g) "Secured Opportunity" means the opportunity to participate in a specified hunt that is secured by an eligible applicant through the drawing process.
(h) "Successful Applicant" means an individual selected to receive a wildlife convention permit through the drawing process.

R657-55-3. Wildlife Convention Permit Allocation.

(1) The Wildlife Board may allocate wildlife convention permits by May 1 of the year preceding the wildlife convention.
(2) Wildlife convention permits shall be issued as a single series to one conservation organization.
(3) The number of wildlife convention permits authorized by the Wildlife Board shall be based on:
(a) the species population trend, size, and distribution to protect the long-term health of the population;
(b) the hunting and viewing opportunity for the general public, both short and long term; and
(c) a percentage of the permits available to nonresidents in the annual big game drawings matched by a proportionate number of resident permits.
(4) Wildlife convention permits, including special nonresident convention permits, shall not exceed 200 total permits.
(5) Wildlife convention permits designated for the convention each year shall be deducted from the number of public drawing permits.

R657-55-4. Obtaining Authority to Distribute Wildlife Convention Permit Series.

(1) The wildlife convention permit series is issued for a period of five years as provided in Section R657-55-1(4).
(2) The wildlife convention permit series is available to eligible conservation organizations for distribution through a drawing or other random selection process held at a wildlife convention in Utah open to the public.
(3) Conservation organizations may apply for the wildlife convention permit series by sending an application to the division between August 1 and September 1, 2010.
(4) Each application must include:
(a) the name, address and telephone number of the conservation organization;
(b) a description of the conservation organization's mission statement;
(c) the name of the president or other individual responsible for the administrative operations of the conservation organization; and
(d) a detailed business plan describing how the wildlife convention will take place and how the wildlife convention permit drawing procedures will be carried out.
(5) An incomplete or incorrect application may be rejected.
(6) The division shall recommend to the Wildlife Board which conservation organization may receive the wildlife convention permit series based on:
(a) the business plan for the convention and drawing procedures contained in the application; and
(b) the conservation organization's, including its constituent entities, ability, including past performance in marketing conservation permits under Rule R657-41, to effectively plan and complete the wildlife convention.
(7) The Wildlife Board shall make the final assignment of the wildlife convention permit series based on the:
(a) division's recommendation;
(b) applicant conservation organization's commitment to use convention permit handling fee revenue to benefit protected wildlife in Utah;

(c) historical contribution of the applicant conservation organization, including its constituent entities, to the conservation of wildlife in Utah; and
(d) previous performance of the applicant conservation organization, including its constituent entities.
(8) The conservation organization receiving the wildlife convention permit series must:
(a) require each wildlife convention permit applicant to verify they possess a current Utah hunting or combination license before allowing them to apply for a convention permit.;
(b) select successful applicants for the wildlife convention permits by drawing or other random selection process in accordance with law, provisions of this rule, proclamation, and order of the Wildlife Board;
(c) allow applicants to apply for the wildlife convention permits without purchasing admission to the wildlife convention;
(d) notify the division of the successful applicant of each wildlife convention permit within 10 days of the applicant's selection;
(e) maintain records demonstrating that the drawing was conducted fairly; and
(f) submit to an annual wildlife convention audit by a division-appointed auditor.
(9) The division shall issue the appropriate wildlife convention permit to the designated successful applicant after:
(a) completion of the random selection process;
(b) verification of the recipient being found eligible for the permit; and
(c) payment of the appropriate permit fee is received by the division.
(10) The division and the conservation organization receiving the wildlife convention permit series shall enter into a contract, including the provisions outlined in this rule.
(11) If the conservation organization awarded the wildlife convention permit series withdraws before the end of the 5 year period, any remaining co-participants with the conservation organization may be given an opportunity to assume the contract and to distribute the convention permit series consistent with the contract and this rule for the remaining years left in the 5 year period, provided:
(a) The original contracted conservation organization submits a certified letter to the division identifying that it will no longer be participating in the convention.
(b) The partner or successor conservation organization files an application with the division as provided in subsection 4 for the remaining period.
(c) The successor conservation organization submits its application request at least 60 days prior to the next scheduled convention so that the wildlife board can evaluate the request under the criteria in this section.
(d) The Wildlife Board authorizes the successor conservation organization to assume the contract and complete the balance of the 5 year convention permit period.
(12) The division may suspend or terminate the conservation organization's authority to distribute wildlife convention permits at any time during the five year award term for:
(a) violating any of the requirements set forth in this rule or the contract; or
(b) failing to bring or organize a wildlife convention in Utah, as described in the business plan under R657-55-4(4)(d), in any given year.

R657-55-5. Hunter Application Procedures.

(1) Any hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife convention permit except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident convention permit.
(2) Any handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall not exceed $5 per application submitted at the convention.
(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife convention to be eligible to participate in the random drawing process, for wildlife convention permits, and no person may submit an application in behalf of another.

(b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife convention as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided convention administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:
(i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;
(ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;
(iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and
(iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.
(c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a Division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f).
(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.
(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.
(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.
(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a permit.
(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife convention permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

R657-55-6. Drawing Procedures.

(1) A random drawing or selection process must be conducted for each wildlife convention permit.
(2) No preference or bonus points shall be awarded in the drawings.
(3) Waiting periods do not apply, except any person who obtains a wildlife convention permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in Rule R657-5 and the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.
(4) No predetermined quotas or restrictions shall be imposed in the application or selection process for wildlife convention permits between resident and nonresident applicants, except that special nonresident convention permits may only be awarded to a nonresident of Utah.
(5) Drawings will be conducted within five days of the close of the convention.
(6) Applicants do not have to be present at the drawing to be awarded a wildlife convention permit.
(7) The conservation organization shall identify all eligible alternates for each wildlife convention permit and provide the division with a finalized list. This list will be maintained by the conservation organization until all permits are issued.
(8) The division shall contact successful applicants by phone or mail, and the conservation organization shall post the name of all successful applicants on a designated website.

R657-55-7. Issuance of Permits.

(1) The division shall provide a wildlife convention permit to the successful applicant as designated by the conservation organization.
(2) The division must provide a wildlife convention permit to each successful applicant, except as otherwise provided in this rule.
(3) The division shall provide each successful applicant a letter indicating the permit secured in the drawing, the appropriate fee owed the division, and the date the fee is due.
(4) Successful applicants must provide the permit fee payment in full to the division and will be issued the designated wildlife convention permit upon receipt of the appropriate permit fee and providing proof they possess a current Utah hunting or combination license.

(5) Residents will pay resident permit fees and nonresidents will pay nonresident permit fees.
(6) Applicants are eligible to obtain only one permit per species, except as provided in Rule R657-5, but no restrictions apply on obtaining permits for multiple species.
(7) In an applicant is selected for more than one convention permit for the same species, the Division will contact the applicant to determine which permit the applicant selects.
(a) The applicant must select the permit of choice within five days of receiving notification.
(b) If the Division is unable to contact the applicant within 5 days, the Division will issue to the applicant the permit with the most difficult drawings odds based on drawing results from the Division's Big Game drawing for the preceding year.
(c) Permits not issued to the applicant will go to the next person on the alternate drawing list for that permit.
(8) Any successful applicant who fails to satisfy the following requirements will be ineligible to receive the wildlife convention permit and the next drawing alternate for that permit will be selected.
(a) The applicant fails to return the appropriate permit fee in full by the date provided in Subsection (3) or
(b) The applicant did not possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license at the time the convention permit application was submitted and the permit received.

R657-55-8. Surrender or Transfer of Wildlife Convention Permits.

(1)(a) If a person selected to receive a wildlife convention permit is also successful in obtaining a Utah limited entry permit for the same species in the same year or obtaining a general permit for a male animal of the same species in the same year, that person cannot possess both permits and must select the permit of choice.
(b) In the event the secured opportunity is willingly surrendered before the permit is issued, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list will be selected to receive the secured opportunity.
(c) In the event the wildlife convention permit is surrendered, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive the permit, and the permit fee may be refunded, as provided in Sections 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2, and R657-42-5.
(2) A person selected by a conservation organization to receive a wildlife convention permit, may not sell or transfer the permit, or any rights thereunder to another person in accordance with Section 23-19-1.
(3) If a person is successful in obtaining a wildlife convention permit but is legally ineligible to hunt in Utah the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive the permit.

R657-55-9. Using a Wildlife Convention Permit.

(1) A wildlife convention permit allows the recipient to:
(a) take only the species for which the permit is issued;
(b) take only the species and sex printed on the permit; and
(c) take the species only in the area and during the season specified on the permit.
(2) The recipient of a wildlife convention permit is subject to all of the provisions of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code, and the rules and proclamations of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing wildlife.

Attachment 2

WESTERN HUNTING & Conservation Expo

On Tuesday February 17th 2014 the electronic random drawing for the 200 convention permits will take place at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. These permits were awarded to the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo by the Utah Wildlife Board.

The following are witnesses of the drawing and were present during the entire process. Once the winners have been drawn all names will be given Law Enforcement for the DWR. The names will be checked for any compact violations and will be deemed eligible by the DWR and notified by mail.

Start Time 10:19 am.

End Time 10:30 am.

Print Name	Signature	Date
Vindy Varney	Vindy Varney	2.18.14
Karen Caldwell	Karen Caldwell	2/18/14
Tony Wood	T. Wood	2.18.2014
Kyle Anderson	Kyle A	2-18-14
Cory Anderson	Cory A	2-18-14
~~Mark Mott~~		
Miles Moreffi	Miles Moreffi	2-18-14
Bill Phifer	Bill Phifer	2-18-14
Eric Tycksen	Eric Tycksen	2-18-14
Mike Canning	Mike Canning	2/18/14

WESTERN HUNTING & Conservation EXPO

Page 2 cont.

Name	Signature	Date
Mike Styler	Michael Styler	Feb 18, 2014
BYRON BATEMAN	B R Bat	2-18-14
Kenny Johnson	K J Johnson	21814
Ryan Foutz	R Foutz	2-18-14
GREG EVANS	G Evans	2/18/2014
Kirk Poulsen	Kirk Poulsen	2/18/2014
ROBERT GRAY	Robert K Gray	2/18/2014

Attachment 3

Convention Tag Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Project Title: MDF Stewardship Position FY15
Region: Statewide
Type of Project: funding for Stan Baker's position

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801.747.3344 **Email: miles@muledeer.org**

Convention Tag Funds: $30,000

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801.538.4766 **Email: tylerthompson@utah.gov**

Project Conditions: (see attached summary report)

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date 7/1/14

Wildlife Section Chief — Date 7/2/14

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date 7-11-14

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ACTING DIRECTOR — Date 7/2/14

Convention Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Project Title: MDF Statewide Water Storage Maintenance Repair FY15
Region: Statewide
Type of Project: water storage repairs, replacement and maintenance

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801.747.3344 **Email: miles@muledeer.org**

Permit Funds Budget: $15,000.00 (source direct payment)

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801.538.4766 **Email: tylerthompson@utah.gov**

Project Conditions: (see attached summary report)

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 7/2/14

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 7/2/14

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date: 7-11-14

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 7/2/14

Conservation Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Project Title: FY15 External Conservation Permit Funding Contributions

Region: Central, Northeastern, Northern, Southeastern, Southern

Type of Project: guzzlers, habitat restoration

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801.747.3344 **Email: miles@muledeer.org**

Permit Funds: $397,650
Convention Tag Funds: $40,000 (#2931 - 204, #2918 - 204)

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801.538.4766 **Email: tylerthompson@utah.gov**

Project Conditions:
See attached list for ID numbers and search the WRI/HC database for those project numbers at www.wri.utah.gov.

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 6/19/14

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 6/23/14

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date: 6-15-4

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 7/1/14

Convention Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.: 3146

Habitat Project No.:_____
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: 2013 Mule Deer Transplant
Region: Southern
Type of Project: Wildlife

Organization: Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife
Contact: Byron Bateman
Phone: 801-725-8526 **Email:** brbateman@comcast.net

Permit Funds Budget: $106,430.80

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801-538-4766 **Email:** tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions:

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 4/2/14

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 4/8/14

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 4/14/14

Convention Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.: 3147

Habitat Project No.:_____
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: Youth Recruitment and Retention Pheasant Program
Region: Statewide
Type of Project: Wildlife

Organization: Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife
Contact: Byron Bateman
Phone: 801-725-8526 **Email:** brbateman@comcast.net

Permit Funds Budget: $62,413.50

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801-538-4766 **Email:** tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions:

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 4/2/14

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 4/8/14

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 4/14/14

Convention Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.:
Habitat Project No.:
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: David Edwards Fence Project
Region: SRO
Type of Project: Depredation Prevention: Fencing

Organization: Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, Inc.
Contact: Byron Bateman
Phone: 801-725-8526 Email: brbateman@comcast.net
Amount: $48,220.00

Division Contact: Scott McFarlane
Phone: 801-538-4776 Email: scottmcfarlane@utah.gov

Project Conditions: Provide funding to construct a big game-proof fence to eliminate big game damage to agricultural fields owned and operated by David Edwards. See attached for additional information regarding the agreement with David Edwards.

SFW Signature:

Authorizing Agent — Date: 7-29-2013

DWR Signatures:

N/A
Habitat Section Chief — Date

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 7/29/13

ACTING DIRECTOR

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — Date: 7/30/13

Copy: 1-Database File (Anita) 2-Mail to organization 3-Division Contact

p.2

Convention Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Habitat Project No.: 2814
Billing Agency: Direct pay

Project Title:	Youth Outdoor Experience
Region:	SL
Type of Project:	Education

Organization:	Mule Deer Foundation		
Contact:	Miles Moretti		
Phone:	801-747-3344	Email:	miles@muledeer.org

Amount:	$2,500.00		
Division Contact:	Gary Cook		
Phone:	801-538-4719	Email:	garycook@utah.gov

Project Conditions: See attached.

MDF Signature:

Authorizing Agent — Date: 8-7-13

DWR Signatures:

Section Chief — Date: 8/7/13

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 8/13/13

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 8/9/13

Copy: 1-Database File (Anita) 2-Mail to organization 3-Division Contact

Convention Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Habitat Project No.: 2808
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: Stockton Shrub Planting
Region: CR
Type of Project: Habitat

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801-747-3344 Email: miles@muledeer.org

Amount: $1,740.77

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801-538-4766 Email: tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions: See attached.

MDF Signature:

Authorizing Agent — Date: 8-7-13

DWR Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 8/8/13

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 8/12/13

ACTING DIRECTOR

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — Date: 8/9/13

Copy: 1-Database File (Anita) 2-Mail to organization 3-Division Contact

Convention Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Habitat Project No.: 2675
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title:	McMillan Springs Phase 2
Region:	SE
Type of Project:	Habitat

Organization:	Mule Deer Foundation	
Contact:	Miles Moretti	
Phone:	801-747-3344	Email: miles@muledeer.org

Amount:	$16,500.00

Division Contact:	Tyler Thompson	
Phone:	801-538-4766	Email: tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions: See attached.

MDF Signature:

Authorizing Agent — Date: 8-7-13

DWR Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 8-19-13

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 8/20/13

ACTING DIRECTOR

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — Date: 8/20/13

Copy: 1-Database File (Anita) 2-Mail to organization 3-Division Contact

Convention Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.:
Habitat Project No.:
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title:	David Edwards Fence Project
Region:	SRO
Type of Project:	Depredation Prevention: Fencing

Organization:	Mule Deer Foundation	
Contact:	Miles Moretti	
Phone:	801-747-3344	Email: miles@muledeer.org

Amount:	$48,220.00	
Division Contact:	Scott McFarlane	
Phone:	801-538-4776	Email: scottmcfarlane@utah.gov

Project Conditions: Provide funding to construct a big game-proof fence to eliminate big game damage to agricultural fields owned and operated by David Edwards. See attached for additional information regarding the agreement with David Edwards.

MDF Signature:

Authorizing Agent — Date: 7-29-13

DWR Signatures:

N/A
Habitat Section Chief — Date

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 7/29/13

ACTING DIRECTOR
Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — Date: 7/30/13

Copy: 1-Database File (Anita) 2-Mail to organization 3-Division Contact

Convention Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.:_____

Habitat Project No.: 2865
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: Wood Hollow Fire Bitterbrush Seeding
Region: Central
Type of Project: Seed for continued fire rehab

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801.747.3344 **Email:** miles@muledeer.org

Permit Funds Budget: $4,600.00

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801.538.4766 **Email:** tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions:
See proposal at http://wri.utah.gov/WRI/Proposal/TitlePage.aspx?id=2865

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 10/24/13

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 10/28/13

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date: 10-29-13

ACTING DIRECTOR

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources — Date: 10/29/13

Convention Permit Funds
Project Approval Cover Sheet

Database No.:_____

Habitat Project No.:___2805___
Billing Agency: DWR

Project Title: MDF Stewardship Position FY14
Region: Statewide
Type of Project: personnel

Organization: Mule Deer Foundation
Contact: Miles Moretti
Phone: 801.747.3344 **Email:** miles@muledeer.org

Permit Funds Budget: $30,000.00

Division Contact: Tyler Thompson
Phone: 801.538.4766 **Email:** tylerthompson@utah.gov

Project Conditions:
(see attached proposal report)

Approval Signatures:

Habitat Section Chief — Date: 10/24/13

Wildlife Section Chief — Date: 10/28/13

Organizations Authorizing Agent — Date: 10-29-13

Director, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ACTING DIRECTOR — Date: 10/29/13

Attachment 4

2014 Convention Permits by Species and Residency

Board Approved:

	TOTAL PERMITS		
	Res	NonRes	Total
Grand Total	141	59	200

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bison	Henry Mountains	Hunters Choice Early	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Hunters Choice Late (Non Resident Only)	0	1	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Cow Only Early	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Cow Only Late	0	1	1
		TOTAL	2	2	4

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns West	Spring	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal, La Sal Mountains-Dolores Triangle	Spring	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mine, Anthro-Range Creek	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowitz	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Book Cliffs	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	S. Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn.	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mountains, Manti North	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring	1	1	2
		TOTAL	8	3	11

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Any Weapon	7	3	10
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oakcreek	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mountains	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mountains	Management Buck	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn.	Any Weapon	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
		TOTAL	29	12	41

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek (roadless)	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Cache, North	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	2	7
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Archery	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Nebo	Any Weapon	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mountains	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mountains	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mountain	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Archery	6	3	9
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Premium Limited Entry, All Weapon Hunts	1	0	1
		TOTAL	**68**	**22**	**90**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mountains		**1**	**0**	**1**
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mountains	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Cougar	Chalk Creek, Kamas		1	0	1
Cougar	Ogden		1	0	1
Cougar	Plateau-Boulder		1	1	2
Cougar	Cache		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountain, Nebo		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Northwest Manti		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Nebo-West Face		1	1	2
Cougar	Pine Valley		1	0	1
Cougar	Mt. Dutton		0	1	1
		TOTAL	**8**	**3**	**11**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Zion	Non Resident Only	0	1	1

Desert Bighorn Sheep	San Rafael, South		1	0	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Pronghorn	Cache, North Rich	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Pronghorn	Cache, North Rich	Archery	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Mt. Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Plateau	Archery	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Any Weapon	3	2	5
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	SW Desert	Any Weapon	2	1	3
		TOTAL	**15**	**6**	**21**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn.		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Nine Mile, Range Creek	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (Female Goat Only)		0	1	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Beaver (early)		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Beaver (Female Goat Only)		0	1	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	No. Slope/So. Slope, High Uintahs West		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (early)	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (late)		1	0	1
		TOTAL	**3**	**3**	**6**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Turkey	Northern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Northeast Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Central Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southeast Region		1	1	2
		TOTAL	**5**	**5**	**10**

2015 Convention Permits by Species and Residency

Board Approved:

	TOTAL PERMITS		
	Res	NonRes	Total
Grand Total	**145**	**55**	**200**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Bison	Henry Mountains	Hunters Choice Early	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Hunters Choice Late (Non Resident Only)	0	1	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Cow Only Early	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mountains	Cow Only Late	0	1	1
		TOTAL	**2**	**2**	**4**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns West	Spring	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal, La Sal Mountains-Dolores Triangle	Spring	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mine, Anthro-Range Creek	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowitz	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Bookcliffs	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	S. Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn.	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mountains, Manti North	Spring	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring	1	1	2
		TOTAL	**8**	**3**	**11**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, North	Any Weapon	7	3	10
Buck Deer	**Book Cliffs, South**	**Any Weapon**	**3**	**1**	**4**
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oakcreek	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mountains	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mountains	Management Buck	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3

Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn.	Any Weapon	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
		TOTAL	**32**	**13**	**45**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek (roadless)	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, North	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	2	7
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Manti	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mountains, Nebo	Any Weapon	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mountains	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mountains	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt. Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lake	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	S.W. Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mountain	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Archery	6	3	9
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mountains	Premium Limited Entry, All Weapon Hunts	1	0	1
		TOTAL	**69**	**22**	**91**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mountains		**1**	**0**	**1**
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mountains	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Cougar	Chalk Creek, Kamas		1	0	1
Cougar	Ogden		1	0	1
Cougar	Plateau-Boulder		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountain, Nebo		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Northwest Manti		1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Nebo-West Face		1	0	1
Cougar	Mt. Dutton		1	0	1

		TOTAL	**7**	**0**	**7**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Zion	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
Desert Bighorn Sheep	San Rafael, South		1	0	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Pronghorn	Bookcliffs South, Cisco	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Cache, North Rich	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Pronghorn	Cache, North Rich	Archery	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Mt. Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Plateau	Archery	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Any Weapon	3	2	5
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	SW Desert	Any Weapon	2	1	3
		TOTAL	**16**	**6**	**22**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn She	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn.		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn She	Nine Mile, Range Creek	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
		TOTAL	**1**	**1**	**2**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Beaver (early)		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	No. Slope/So. Slope, High Uintahs West		1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (early)	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (late)		1	0	1
		TOTAL	**3**	**1**	**4**

			PERMITS		
Species	**Area**	**Condition**	**Res**	**NonRes**	**Total**
Turkey	Northern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Northeast Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Central Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southeast Region		1	1	2
		TOTAL	**5**	**5**	**10**

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: **August 14, 2014**

TO: **Utah Wildlife Board**

FROM: **Staci Coons, Chair -Certification Review Committee**

RE: Variance Request from M. Shane Richins (Scales and Tails Utah) for the possession and exhibit of one Gila Monster, two Alligator Snapping Turtles, one Common Snapping Turtle, one Great Basin Rattlesnake (to replace the Prairie Rattlesnake previously approved by the Wildlife Board), one Caiman (Cuvier's Dwarf, Schneider's Dwarf or Yacare), and one Crocodile (Morelet's, African Dwarf or Cuban) for commercial and educational purposes.

The Certification Review Committee met August 14, 2014, to discuss the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-53, for the possession and exhibit of the listed species for commercial and educational purposes.

In attendance were: M. Shane Richins (Scales and Tails Utah); Kimberly Hershey for Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Drew Cushing for Roger Wilson, Aquatic Section Chief; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Tony Wood, Law Enforcement Chief; Felicia Alvarez for Robert Rolfs, Department of Health; Warren Hess, Department of Agriculture; Suzanne McMulllin, COR Specialist and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-53-11. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed no concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public.

2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals -** The committee had no significant concerns with impacts on wildlife or domestic animals.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts -** The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
4. **The suitability of the facilities** - The committee had no concerns with the suitability of facilities.

5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee had no concerns regarding the experience of the applicant for the proposed activity. The committee was impressed with the level of care provided to all the animals in their possession and the educational component that the applicant provides.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved and that the following stipulations be made part of the Certificate of Registration:

1. The committee recommends approval for M. Shane Richins (Scales and Tails Utah) to possess and exhibit the requested species with the stipulation that Mr. Richins identify the source from which he will obtain each species from prior to obtaining them.
2. The committee recommends that the requested species not be handled by the general public and that the educational program Mr. Richins' offers will include information as to why they do not make good pets.
3. The committee recommends that the requested species be used for educational purposes only and will not be used for propagation.
4. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Mr. Richins is not transferable and cannot be sold with his business.
5. The committee requires that Mr. Richins obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection from the Department of Agriculture for the importation of the requested species and that all city, county and insurance needs continue to be current.
6. The committee recommends that Mr. Richins provide a list of cleaning products used in his facilities.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
M. Shane Richins

VEST VALLEY CITY

Unity | Pride | Progress

To: Whom it may concern

I have met with Shane Richens and inspected his property and animals. He does an exemplary job of caring for his animals while ensuring they are secured and handled in a safe manner. He provides excellent training to his employee's to ensure the public safety as well as their own.

Shane is requesting additional permits most of these permits are being sought after to ensure the viability of his business. The animals that he uses in order to teach the public can and do in some cases grow too large to safely show them at different events. Many of these permits will allow him to replace animals when the time is necessary. He has assured me that he will have homes for the other animals before getting replacements. He also has already lined up someone who has the facilities to take most if not all of his animals that have grown too large to safely be shown. The other animals that he is requesting are reasonable for someone with his knowledge and abilities to have in addition to the animals that he already owns.

The list of animals he wishes to add to his list of permits and explanation of reasoning;

Gila Monster x 1

This is a venomous lizard however the venom is not considered deadly they are a slow moving species that are easy to handle. They are also indigenous to the 4 corners area including Utah.

Alligator Snapping Turtles x2

There is minimal risk as an invasive species to Utah and Shane has given no indication that he would allow the animals to be released into the wild. This species makes a great show peace that will help to excite the customers into listening and learning about one of the unique species indigenous to the U.S. They are an animal with the right training is reasonable to handle. Shane has that knowledge and experience.

Common Snapping Turtle

As this is an invasive species and there is little public knowledge on how to recognize them this animal will be a great tool in teaching people how to recognize them, let them know that they are illegal. Shane has an exemplary record as a handler and I see no reason that he should be denied this animal despite it's invasive abilities. I am confident that Shane will ensure that they do not escape or get released into the wild.

Great Basin Rattlesnake

Desire to change one of his Prairie Rattlesnake permits to include the Great Basin rather than the Prairie Rattlesnake would give him the ability to show and teach the most common Rattlesnakes in Utah. He also sees potential for new methods of showing these animals. Nothing else would change for the permits all rules will stay in place. He does have the proper training and ability to handle these snakes safely.

Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman x1, Schneider's Dwarf Caiman x1, Yacare Caiman x1

For these permits Shane is not looking to add 3 new Caiman to his collection. These animals do grow to large to safely show and Shane knows the company he will be taking them too when they do get to large. However that means that he must replace those animals. At times the different Caiman may not be available to purchase. For Shane to lose the animal without it being replaced would hurt his business. Allowing him to have these 3 permits will give him the ability to replace his animals with as little time without a Caiman as possible. This is a reasonable request to help ensure the viability of his business.

Morelete's Crocodile, African Dwarf Crocodile, Cuban Crocodile

This is the same reason as the Caiman request and I am in support of it that same as the Caiman.

American Bullfrog

With the desire to teach about invasive species this would be the first animal that I would think of due to their ability to reproduce anywhere. Shane would ensure the captivity of the animal is secure.

WVC Animal Services
Field Supervisor Nathan Beckstead

5-06-14

1 Gila Monster
Heloderma suspectum

Housing: Vision reptile cage

Cleaning: Substrate removed, cage wiped out with bleach

Invasive potential: Native to Utah

Reason for request: Classes on core curriculum subjects that we are trying to offer to schools. This would help cover native animals. It is also a spectacular display animal at events.

Where would we get it: From a private keeper or breeder out of state.

We have extensive experience with this animal. It is venomous but not generally considered deadly. They are slow moving and easy to handle. We would keep this animal on our Worker's Comp insurance but would like to avoid having to put it on our general public insurance due to the very high cost coupled with the lower danger level of the venom. We also would not be allowing the public to directly handle this animal and our own employees would have to go through an in house certification procedure similar to what they have to go through to handle our crocodilians to insure proper safety and containment.

Two Alligator Snapping Turtles
Macrochelys temminckii, Macrochelys suwanniensis, Macrochelys apalachicolae

Housing: Alligator snappers are completely aquatic, only coming out of the water to lay eggs. Housing will therefore be a simple stock tank of appropriate size.

Cleaning: the tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: They are a cold tolerant species and a healthy adult may have the potential to survive in some of our waters year round. We hope that our track record with other species shows the required level of responsibility you would look for to see that we would never let that happen.
If it did ever end up in a local water system the threat would be minimized by the species' lifestyle. They would not leave the water to colonize another water way. They are wait and ambush predators and very slow growing which also minimizes the impact on an area they are in.

Reason for requesting it: It is an amazing display animal, an amazing show animal, and a purely American animal. These are all things that would make it a strong attraction for what we do.

Where would we get it: From a private keeper out of state who wants to sell.

We do have extensive experience handling these animals and any handling outside of our own employees would be under very limited and controlled conditions.

Great Basin Rattlesnake
Crotalus oreganus lutosus

We have been approved for two prairie rattlesnakes (crotalus viridis) already but our immediate need for them passed so we have not brought them in. We did build the rattlesnake room and are ready for them in case a new need arises and would like to keep the approval but with one change. Without a specific event in mind we would be more versatile and better served if we could keep one as a prairie rattlesnake and change the second to a great basin rattlesnake. This allows us to cover the most common local rattlesnake as well. This is also a downgrade in the aggressiveness of the species and the potency of the venom. We would keep to the same rules as per the past approval.

1 Yacare Caiman
Caiman yacare

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Schneider's Dwarf Caiman
Paleosuchus trigonatus

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Cuvier's Dwarf Caiman
Paleosuchus palpebrosus

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Cuban Crocodile
Crocodylus rhombifer

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 African Dwarf Crocodile
Osteolaemus tetraspis

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Additional Morelete's crocodile
Crocodylus moreletii

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Additional Morelete's crocodile
Crocodylus moreletii

Housing: Aquarium when young, custom caging when older.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: None, they cannot survive our winters.

Reason for requesting it: When our small alligator outgrows children's parties we will need a replacement.

Where would we get it: From an out of state breeder.

1 Common Snapping Turtle
Chelydra serpentine

Housing: Stock tank with a landing area inside.

Cleaning: The tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: Very potentially invasive. We hope our past record shows that we are responsible enough to prevent ours from escaping.

Reason for requesting: This animal is commonly kept illegally. The public commonly refers to many turtles as snapping turtles. We would like to help the public be able to identify a true snapping turtle and to know it is illegal to own in Utah. It would also make a nice display animal.

Where would we get it: From a private keeper out of state who wants to sell.

We do have extensive experience handling these animals and any handling outside of our own employees would be under very limited and controlled conditions.

1 American Bullfrog
Lithobates catesbeianus

Housing: An aquarium of appropriate size.

Cleaning: : the tank will be completely drained and bleached at least once a week whether it looks bad or not. It will also be cleaned in a similar fashion any time the state of the water looks like it needs it.

Invasive potential: These are already invasive in much of Utah. We hope our history shows that we would not let ours escape.

Reason for request: We are trying to offer classes on specific curriculum subjects for schools. One of them is invasive species and this frog fits the bill well.

Where would we get it: We would just catch one from a pond

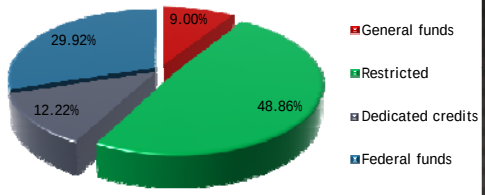
FEE CHANGES

PRESENTED TO REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS JULY-AUGUST 2014

FEE CHANGE PROCESS

- Fees are first proposed to Regional Advisory Councils (RAC).
- Then the Wildlife Board must consider and approve.
- The governor's office reviews and makes a recommendation to the Legislature.
- The Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee approves, modifies, or rejects the proposal.
- Any committee-approved fees are included in the annual appropriation bill and voted on by all legislators.
- Fees take effect the beginning of the next fiscal year. (July 1, 2015)

DIVISION FUNDING OVERVIEW



FINANCIAL IMPACTS

- Being largely funded by participation of anglers and hunters we try to balance fees with increasing costs of protecting fish and wildlife
- For 2015 we have a few new opportunities that require fees and a couple minor changes to existing fees

NEW OPPORTUNITY/FEES

- Bobcat (fee change)
- Muskrat (fee change/future rule change)
- 2 cow elk permit (new)
- Rocky Mt. and Desert Bighorn Ewe (new)

Reminder this presentation establishes the fee, more detail on implementation will follow in subsequent RACs

PROJECTED REVENUE

- These proposed fee changes will not significantly increase revenue. We expect to generate about $60,300 dollars total.
- The new revenue will contribute a small amount of funding to help manage each program.

BOBCAT REVENUE

- Our costs continue to increase
- Specifically rabbit transects, tooth aging, jaw & pelt sealing process
- Increased revenue will help fund these efforts and manage the species
- Pelt prices average $407

BOBCAT PROPOSED FEE

Bobcat New Revenue

Description	Current	Proposed	Est.Quantity	Est. Revenue
Resident Bobcat	$ 5.00	$ 15.00	4,400	$ 44,000
Nonresident	$ 5.00	$ 45.00	200	$ 8,000
Total Est. New Revenue				$52,000

MUSKRAT FEES

- This isn't recreational trapping. This program is intended to meet a need on our waterfowl management areas
- We need the right people protecting the dikes and levees by targeting and removing problem muskrat
- The current fees and structure don't ensure this happens

MUSKRAT CONTINUED

- We are proposing dropping these fees from the fee schedule
- Currently successful applicant pays from $30 – $155 dollars depending on # of muskrat they anticipate capturing
- We generate $560 dollars annually
- We want to put muskrat trapping on our waterfowl management areas out to bid
- This will allow us to select contractors who will do the job to our specifications
- Revenue may increase

MUSKRAT WMAS

Muskrat New Revenue

Description	Current	Proposed	Est.Quantity	Est. Revenue
Resident	$30 - $155	Open Bid	12	$ 2,400
Nonresident	$30 - $155	Open Bid	0	0
Total Est. New Revenue				$2,400

2 COW PERMIT PROPOSED FEE

2 Cow Elk Permit New Revenue

Description	Current	Proposed	Est.Quantity	Est. Revenue
Resident	$ -	$80	40	$3,200
Nonresident	$ -	$350	4	$1,400
Total Est. New Revenue				$4,600

EWE HUNTING BACKGROUND

- We would like to create this new opportunity and fee for eventual use in the statewide management plan
- Removing problem animals ourselves is first line of defense currently
- This could be a population management tool
- This fee allows us to use the tool of hunting while allowing the public a unique opportunity

BIGHORN EWE FEES

Rocky Mt. & Desert
Bighorn Ewe

Description	Current	Proposed	Est.Quantity	Est. Revenue
Resident	$ -	$100	10	$1,000
Nonresident	$ -	$300	1	$300
Total Est. New Revenue				$1,300

SUMMARY

- These new fees and minor fee adjustments will:
- Offer new tools for management
- Create new opportunity for the hunting public
- Bring in a small amount of needed revenue.

THANK YOU

2015 COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION AND PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Cougar Management Plan Revision

- 2009 Cougar Management Plan was approved
- 2011 minor amendments were implemented
- 2013 Wildlife Board directed the DWR to:
  - Simplify the plan
  - Allocate permits on a unit by unit basis

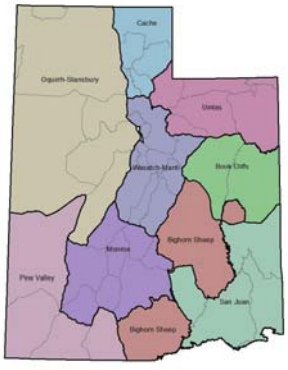
Cougar Management Plan Revision

- July 8, 2014 – Utah Houndsmen Association, United Wildlife Cooperative, and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
  - 3 years of data compiled and analyzed by area
  - Permits and quotas allocated on a unit-by-unit basis
  - Permits and quotas reviewed and adjusted annually
  - Female sub-quotas eliminated
  - They asked that we include all female cougars in the analysis

Future Plan

Re-open the plan with input from the Cougar Advisory Board to further simplify and make adjustments over the next year

- Asked us to consider performance target for total female harvest <40% on each unit



- Cougar Management Areas - large scale grouping of hunting units
- Cougar Hunting Units - harvest is managed by permits
- Predator Management Units - minimize cougar populations for potential benefits to big game populations

2015 Cougar Recommendations

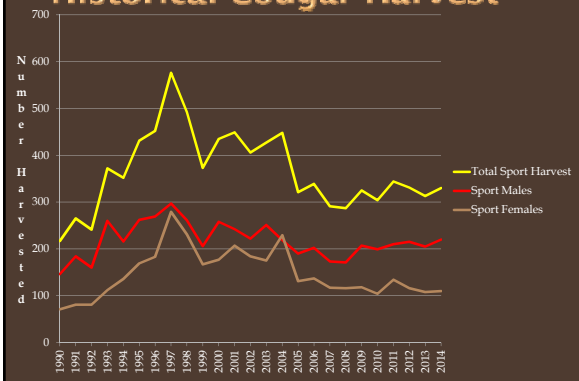
Performance Targets:

- **Primary Target –** Proportion of adult females in the harvest (0.17 to 0.20)
  - Fall below or above these numbers then permits are adjusted
  - We also ran the model using 40% females to determine if it made a difference in permit recommendations
- **Secondary Target** - Cougars treed per day averages between 0.25 and 0.35
  - Adjust permit numbers after primary target is considered

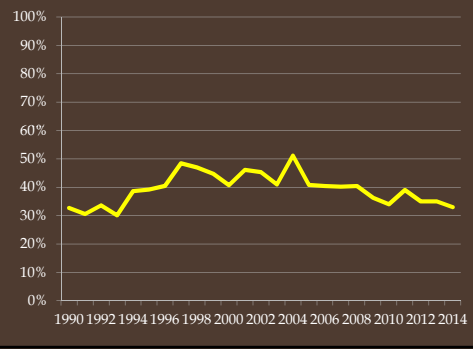
Predator Management Units:

- Predator Management Units are determined by Predator Management Policy.
- Regions choose Split or Harvest Objective strategies
- Permits/quota are assigned to each unit
- Unit closes when all the permits /quota are filled or when the season ends
- Three units (with bighorn sheep and low numbers of deer) have no quota and take is unlimited:
  - Book Cliffs-Rattlesnake, Kaiparowits, and San Rafael

Historical Cougar Harvest



Percent Total Females in Sport Harvest



Cougar Season Dates

Limited Entry

November 12 , 2014 through May 31, 2015

Split

Limited Entry
November 12, 2014 through February 26, 2015

Harvest Objective
March 5 , 2014 through May 31, 2015

Harvest Objective
November 12, 2014 through November 8, 2015

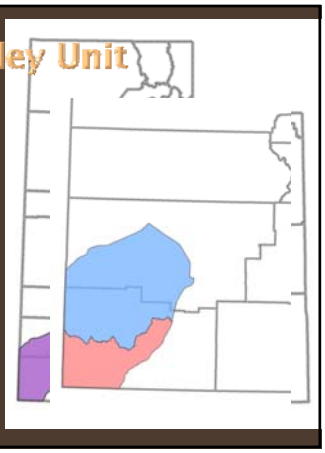
Pursuit Season
November 12, 2014 through May 31, 2015

Cougar Management Area Percent Females, 2010–13.

Cache	32% (33% in 2012)
Monroe	36% (40% in 2011)
Oquirrh-Stansbury	23%
Pine Valley	31%
San Juan	21% (PMP)
Uintahs	38% (42% in 2012)
Wasatch/Manti	33% (40% in 2013)

Pine Valley Unit

- Split into 2 units
- Pine Valley, North - split
- Pine Valley, South – harvest objective



Limited Entry Permit Recommendations

Unit	Resident	Non Resident
Central Mtns., Southwest Manti	5	1
Chalk Creek-Kamas	6	1
East Canyon	4	0
Morgan So. Rich	5	1
Oquirrh-Stansbury	5	1
Wasatch Mtns., Currant Creek-South Slope	5	1
Wasatch Mtns, West	8	1
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	4	0

Split Unit Permit Recommendations

Unit	Resident	Non Resident
Beaver	9	1
Box Elder, Desert	5	1
Box Elder, Pilot	4	0
Box Elder, Raft River	5	1
Cache	12	2
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	9	1
Central Mtns, Northwest Manti	8	1
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	9	1
Central Mtns, Nebo	7	1
Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face	7	1

Split Unit Permit Recommendations

Unit	Resident	Non Resident
East Canyon, Davis	4	1
Fillmore-Pahvant	8	1
Monroe	7	1
Mt Dutton	12	1
Ogden	12	2
Panguitch Lake	9	1
Paunsaugunt	7	1
Pine Valley, North	6	1
Plateau, Boulder	8	1
Plateau, Fishlake	9	1
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	4	0
Southwest Desert	7	1
West Desert Mtn Ranges	4	0

Harvest Objective Unit Quotas

Unit	Quota	PMP Species	Reason
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	20	deer	<90% of objective, < 85% adult doe survival
Fillmore, Oak Creek	12	bighorn sheep	Recent introduction
Henry Mtns	12	deer, bighorn sheep	<90% of objective (deer and bhs), <85% adult doe survival
LaSal Mtns	15	deer, bighorn sheep	<90% of objective (deer and bhs), <85% adult doe survival
Nine Mile	20	deer, bighorn sheep	90% of objective (deer), < 85% adult doe survival, recent bhs transplant

Harvest Objective Unit Quotas

Unit	Quota	PMP species	Reason
North Slope, Bonanza-Diamond-Vernal	18	deer	90% of objective, < 85% adult doe survival
North Slope, Three Corners	10	bighorn sheep	<90% of objective
North Slope, Summit-West Daggett	10	bighorn sheep	<90% of objective
Pine Valley, South	10	bighorn sheep	Future transplant
San Juan	25	deer and bighorn sheep	90% of objective (deer and bhs), < 85% adult doe survival – recent bhs transplant

Harvest Objective Unit Quotas

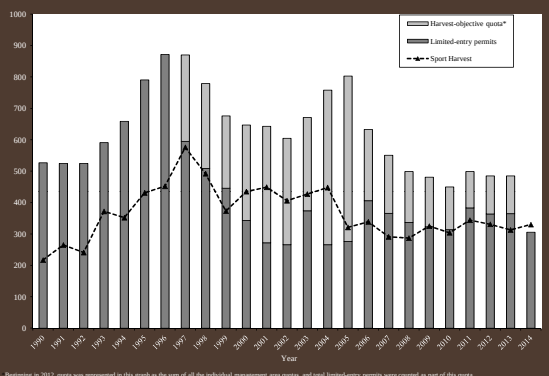
Unit	Quota	PMP species	Reason
South Slope, Yellowstone	10	deer	90% of objective, < 85% adult doe survival
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin	15	deer, bighorn sheep	90% of objective (deer, bhs recent transplant), < 85% adult doe survival
Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	5	deer, bighorn sheep	90% of objective, < 85% adult doe survival
Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	5	deer, bighorn sheep	90% of objective, < 85% adult doe survival
Zion	20		not predator management plan

Unlimited Take Units

- Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake
- Kaiparowits
- San Rafael

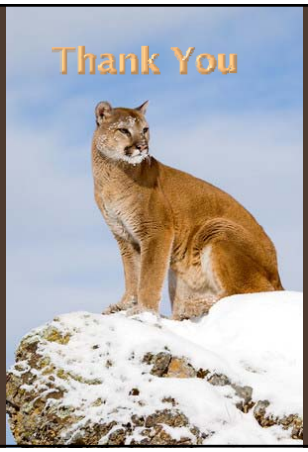
Limited Entry and Split Permits Totals

- 2012 and 2013 = 347
- 2014 = 285
- 2015 = 253



Beginning in 2012, quota was represented in this graph as the sum of all the individual management area quotas, and total limited-entry permits were counted as part of this quota.

Thank You



Quotas and Closed Units 2013

- Wasatch Manti PM
  - total quota April 18, 2014
  - Central Mountains Nebo
  - Avintaquin
- Monroe
  - female subquota March 29, 2014
  - All 8 hunting units
- Book Cliffs PM
  - total quota February 8, 2014
  - Closed during LE hunt so didn't transition to split
- Cache
  - female subquota February 28, 2014
  - Closed during LE hunt so didn't transition to split

2014-2015 Bobcat and Furbearer Recommendations

2007-2016 Bobcat Plan:

The plan uses 4 variables to adjust permit numbers and season dates:

Variable	Target Range
%Young	42-56
% Adult Survival	65-72
% Females	41-45
Set-days/bobcat	177-220

Bobcat Trend and Target:

Variable	2011	2012	2013	2014	TARGET
% Juvenile	31	35	35	46	42-56
% Survival	69	70	75	70	65-72
% Female	43	45	48	45	41-45
Set-day/bobcat	492	400	392	333	171-220

Bobcat Trend and Target:

Variable	2011	2012	2013	2014	TARGET
% Juvenile	31	35	35	46 ✓	42-56
% Survival	69	70	75	70 ✓	65-72
% Female	43	45	48	45 ✓	41-45
Set-day/bobcat	492	400	392	333	171-220

Continues to improve

2014-2015 Recommendation:

Guidance from Plan:

If <2 performance targets are outside of range: return to baseline:

Baseline:
- 6 Tags per individual
- Season from 3rd Wednesday in November to second Sunday in February
- No cap on number of tags sold

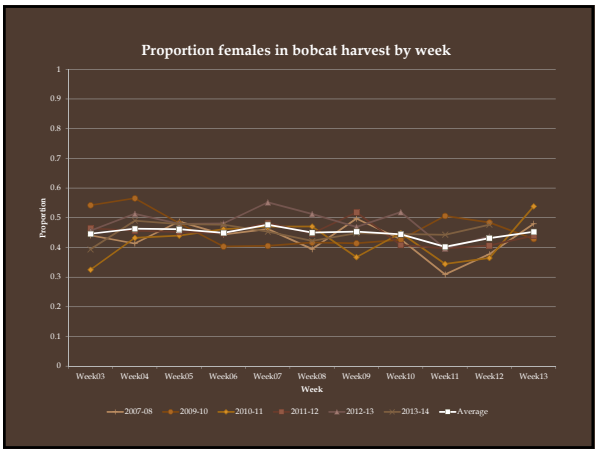
2014 -2015 Bobcat Recommendation:

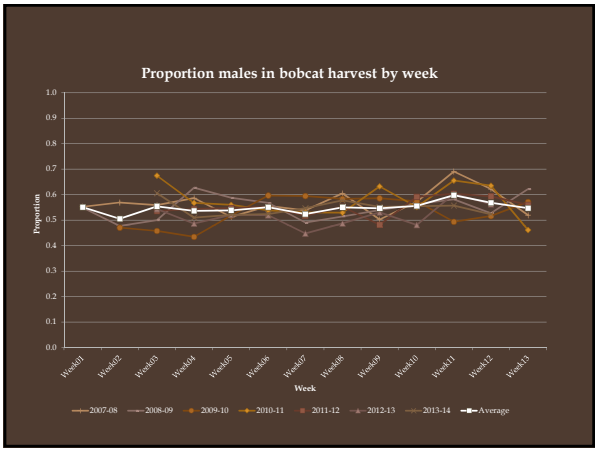
- 6 permits per individual
- November 19, 2014 until February 8, 2015
- No cap on number of permits sold

Other Furbearer Seasons

No changes from previous years:

- Beaver and Mink
  - Sept 27, 2014 to April 7, 2015
- Badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, and weasel seasons
  - Sept 27, 2014 to February 2, 2015
- Marten
  - Sept 27, 2014 to February 2, 2015





R657-69: Turkey Depredation

Background

- Turkeys were extirpated from many areas in the U.S.
- Turkey numbers were their lowest in the 1930s
- Evidence shows wild turkeys are native to Utah (pictographs, petroglyphs, turkey bones)
- Re-introductions in Utah started as early as the 1920s
  - Aggressive, and more successful, efforts beginning in 1989
- Turkey populations are doing very well now
  - A wildlife success story
  - Created some areas with human-turkey conflicts



Utah Wild Turkey Management Plan

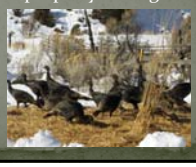
- Recently (June 2014) approved by the Utah Wildlife Board
- Goal B. Minimize human-wild turkey conflicts
  - Objective 1. Decrease the number of chronic material damage complaints by 25%

Blue = occupied habitat

H.B. 342: Wild Turkey Management

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Ronda R. Menlove

- Created Utah Code 23-17-5.1
- Requires the DWR to investigate and mitigate material damage to private property by a wild turkey
  - Respond within 72 hours
  - Hazing, transplant, hunts
- Gives rulemaking authority to the Wildlife Board to administer provisions relating to private property damage caused by wild turkeys
  - Proposed Rule 657-69



Rule 657-69: Turkey Depredation

- If a turkey causes material damage to private property, the property owner reports it to the UDWR
- "Material Damage" means physical impacts to private property caused by turkeys that are visible, persistent, and detrimental to the landowner or lessee's use of the private property
- UDWR will respond within 72 hrs
- UDWR may:
  - Remove the turkeys
  - Implement a damage mitigation and prevention plan
    - With landowner approval

Turkey Damage Mitigation and Prevention Plan

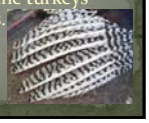
1. Provide educational materials
2. Haze turkeys
3. Exclude the turkeys (fences, tarps, etc.)
4. Capture and relocate the turkeys
5. Allow harvest
   - Limited entry or general season permits
   - WIA or CWMU
   - Depredation hunt
   - Control Permit
   - Control Permit Voucher

Capture and Relocate

- Very successful history of capture and relocate
- Move to RAC & Wildlife Board approved sites
  - 231 approved sites statewide
- Effective tool
  - Still trying to grow the Utah turkey population
  - Doesn't work in all situations

Depredation Hunt

- Focused response to verified reports of material damage
- Small areas, with short notice, and limited number of permits
- Hunter depredation pool (apply online)
  - Selected randomly
- Must have valid hunting or combination license
- Must purchase a permit
- UDWR Regional Supervisor approves:
  - Boundaries, season dates, bag limits, sex of the turkeys to be harvested, and allowable weapon types.



Control Permit for Turkey

- May be part of a damage mitigation and prevention plan
- Maximum of 2 control permits/calendar year
- For landowner or lessee
  - Or immediate family or employee
- Each free control permit is valid for one either sex turkey on the private property

Control Permit Voucher for Turkey

- May be part of a damage mitigation and prevention plan
- UDWR may issue vouchers for up to 10% of the documented turkeys on the private property, with a maximum of 15 vouchers/calendar year
- For landowner/lessee or designated 3rd party recipient
  - A landowner may not gain financial compensation for the voucher's use
- A voucher allows the holder to purchase a control permit
  - Must have valid hunting or combo license to redeem voucher
- Each control permit is valid for one either sex turkey on the private property

Thank You

Wild Turkey Transplant Recommendation June 2014 - June 2019

Transplant List

- Required by Wildlife Code 23-14-21
- Still trying to grow the Utah wild turkey population (Management Plan Goal A)
- Developed at a regional level by local biologists
- Move to areas with a low likelihood of conflicts
- Tool for reducing human-turkey conflicts (Management Plan Goal B)
- Board Approved 231 Sites in June 2014
  - (expires June 2019)

RAC Proposed Addition

- SR RAC recommended the addition of 7 sites:
  - Marysvale Canyon, Birch Creek, City Creek, Mammoth Creek, Upper Sevier, Minersville, and Coal Creek.
- Wildlife Board approved to move forward with adding the above 7 sites to the Transplant List
- The sites have gone through Resource Development Coordinating Committee, local government officials (Code 23-14-21 requirement)
  - ✓No Comments Received
- Recommendation: We would like to add the above 7 sites to the approved Wild Turkey Transplant List.

Thank You

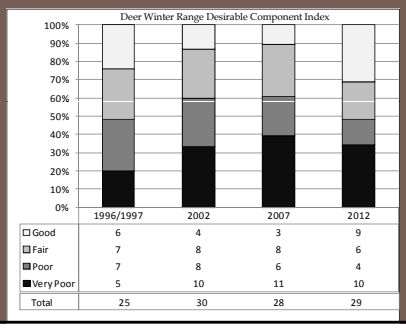
Central Region Mule Deer Units

- 17a-Wasatch West
- 18-Oquirrh/Stansbury
- 19-West Desert
  - *16 Central Mountains Plan completed 2 years ago

Photo Courtesy of Tom Becker

Unit	Unit Range Limitation	Trend From 2007
Wasatch West	Winter Range	Slightly Up

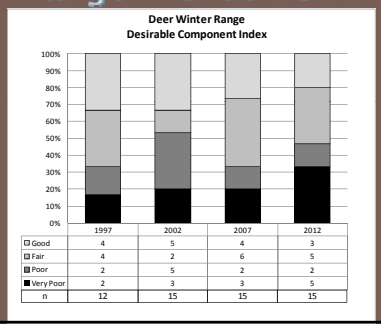
Range Trends 2012



	1996/1997	2002	2007	2012
Good	6	4	3	9
Fair	7	8	8	6
Poor	7	8	6	4
Very Poor	5	10	11	10
Total	25	30	28	29

Unit	Unit Range Limitation	Trend From 2007
Oquirrh/Stansbury	Summer Range	Slight Decrease

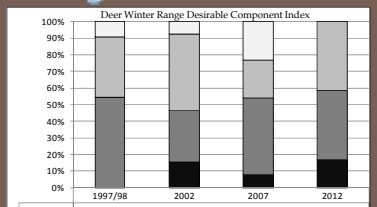
Range Trends 2012



	1997	2002	2007	2012
Good	4	5	4	3
Fair	4	2	6	5
Poor	2	5	2	2
Very Poor	2	3	3	5
n	12	15	15	15

Unit	Unit Range Limitation	Winter Range Trend From 2007
West Desert, Deep Creek/Tintic	Summer	Slight Decrease

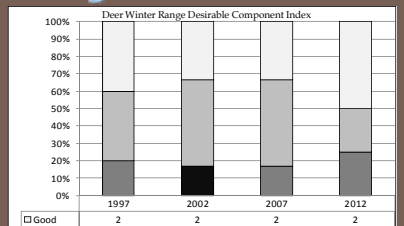
Range Trends 2012



	1997/98	2002	2007	2012
Good	1	1	3	0
Fair	4	6	3	5
Poor	6	4	6	5
Very Poor	0	2	1	2
Total	11	13	13	12

Unit	Unit Range Limitation	Winter Range Trend From 2007
West Desert, Vernon	Summer	Stable

Range Trends 2012



	1997	2002	2007	2012
Good	2	2	2	2
Fair	2	3	3	1
Poor	1	0	1	1
Very Poor	0	1	0	0
Total	5	6	6	4

Population Objectives and Estimates

Unit	2013 Population Estimate	Current Plan Objective	Proposed Objective	Buck/100 Doe Objective
17a-Wasatch West	18,700	22,600	22,600	15-17
18-Oquirrh/ Stansbury	10,800	10,600	11,600	15-17
19-West Desert	8,900	11,200	11,200	15-17 (25-35)

Habitat Restoration Wasatch West Unit

Projects Unit 17a 2006-2014	# Projects	Acres
Pinyon-Juniper Projects	1	1,061
Sagebrush Improvement Projects	1	40
Mountain Brush Improvement Projects	3	2,159
OHV Trail Closures	4	104
Weed Control Projects	5	4,700
Total	14	8,064

Habitat Restoration Oquirrh/Stansbury Unit

Projects 2006-2014	# Projects	Acres
Pinyon-Juniper Projects	24	17,050
Sagebrush Improvement Projects	6	1,773
Fire Rehabilitation Projects	10	29,337
Total	40	48,160

Habitat Restoration West Desert Unit

Projects Unit 19 2006-2014	# Projects	Acres
Pinyon-Juniper Projects	19	18,194
Sagebrush Improvement Projects	11	5,957
Fire Rehabilitation Projects	11	11,807
Weed Control Projects	7	1,847
Total	48	37,805

Habitat Focus Areas

- **Wasatch West**
  - North side of Hwy 6 in the Sheep Creek drainage.
  - Wallsburg WMA.
  - North side of Diamond Fork Canyon.
  - Quaking Aspen forests unit wide.
  - Anywhere along the front that would discourage deer from entering cities.

Habitat Focus Areas

- Oquirrh/ Stansbury
  - Northeast Stansbury Mountains, South of Grantsville.
  - Southwest portion of the Oquirrh, including Manning and Pole Canyon also SITLA ground north of Cedar Fort.

Habitat Focus Areas

- **West Desert**
- Future pinyon juniper work should be concentrated on the following areas.
  - The south slope of the Sheep Rock Mountains.
  - The north and west slope of The Deep Creek Mountains.
- Future summer range work (prescribed burns) should be concentrated on the Deep Creek Mountains.