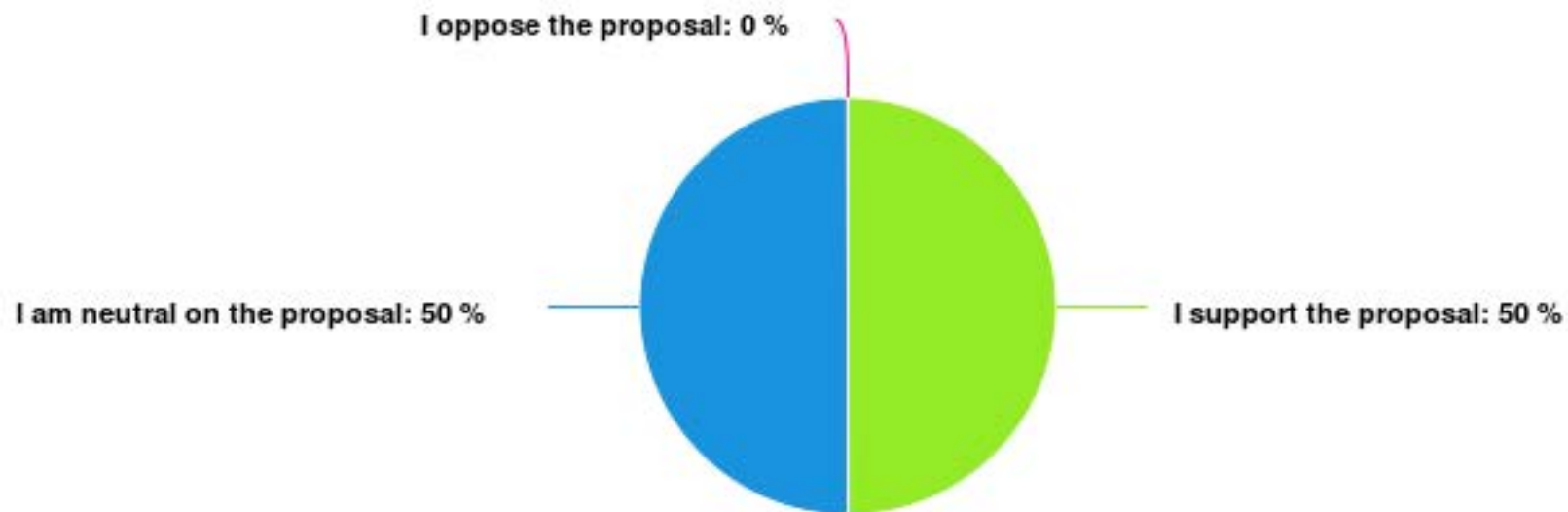


After viewing the guidebook and rule recommendations for upland game and turkey:



After viewing the upland game recommendations and swan rule amendments:

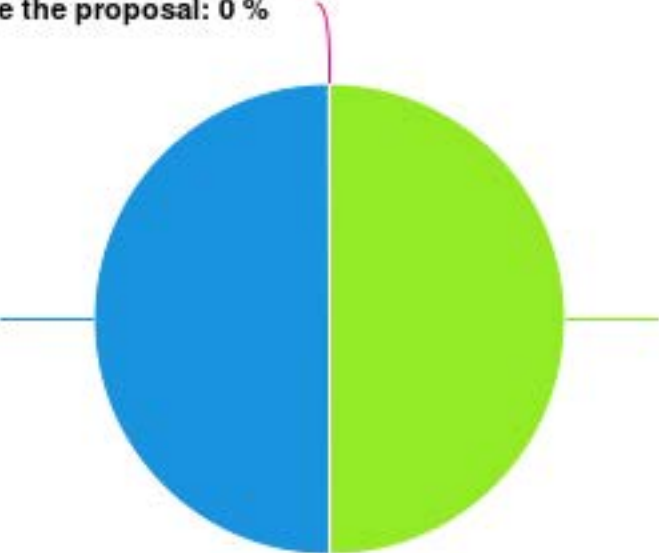


After viewing the presentation about the AIS rule amendments:

I oppose the proposal: 0 %

I am neutral on the proposal: 50 %

I support the proposal: 50 %

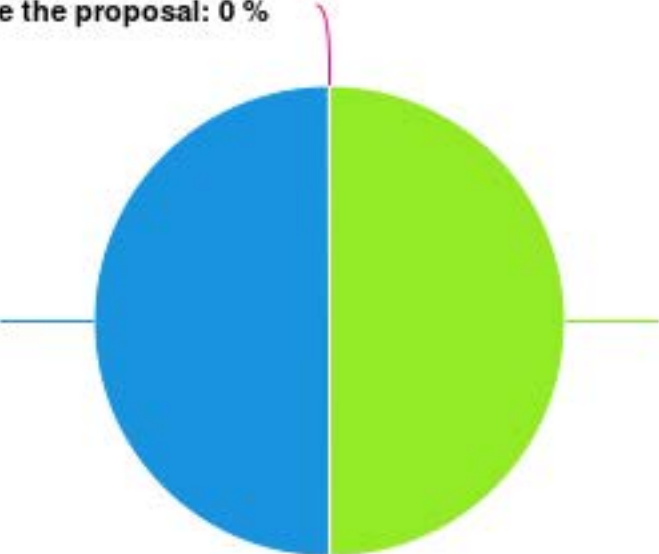


After viewing the presentation about the WIA rule amendments:

I oppose the proposal: 0 %

I am neutral on the proposal: 50 %

I support the proposal: 50 %



Form Name: May/June 2020 RAC & Board feedback
Submission Time: May 8, 2020 7:29 am
Browser: Chrome 70.0.3538.102 / Windows
IP Address: [REDACTED]
Unique ID: 610348434
Location: [REDACTED]

Date/Time May 08, 2020 07:28 AM

Region Northeastern Region

1. Upland game and turkey guidebook and rule recommendations

After viewing the guidebook and rule recommendations for upland game and turkey: I oppose the proposal

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Utah National Wild Turkey Federation
Recommendations for May 2020 RAC's

May 6,2020

1- The Utah State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation State Board and its members do not support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources decision to add air guns to the fall hunt for turkeys. We have researched and contacted national staff and at this time feel there is not enough data to say that an air gun is an ethical, effective weapon to harvest an adult turkey. We also feel that while the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has set restrictions on the size and PSI an air gun must have, they do not have the man power or the time to enforce the rules concerning air gun usage. Air guns are still considered a weapon and legally cannot be used inside city limits, if that was the intent. We feel that there will be many more turkeys wounded, left to die and wasted than we already have during the fall hunt. As pointed out in the turkey management plan, the fall hunt is a tool to keep nuisance birds off of private property.

2- The Utah State Board of the National Wild Turkey Federation would also like to see rim-fire guns for the fall hunt to be used exclusively by youth ages 17 and under.

3- The National Wild Turkey Federation does not support a change in the youth season at this time. The youth already have the opportunity to hunt for over a month. If they draw a limited entry tag, it allows them to hunt for almost two months. We feel that the youth season that was implemented at the beginning was made by the upland game committee, having an extensive knowledge of the wild turkey and the time in which they can be hunted successfully. In the turkey management plan, we have triggers to use for changing tag numbers and season dates. The decision to change the youth season does not need to be made now. It should be done under the new management plan. This allows us to have a discussion within the upland game group where NWTF turkey biologists, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources biologists and Division of Wildlife Resources upland game managers can make an educated sound biological decision.

Our reasons for these recommendations:

1- We feel that not enough data exists on the use of air rifles in the harvesting of wild turkeys. We think that more research should be done before a decision is made.

2- The National Wild Turkey Federations biologists have indicated that hunting turkeys before breeding occurs could have a long-lasting negative

affect on turkey populations. That is why the later date was set so that breeding has occurred before the harvesting of toms.

3- The National Wild Turkey Federation feels the turkey management plan is in place and revised for the management of the wild turkeys and should be the governing document for turkey management.

4- The National Wild Turkey Federation is the leading conservation group in R-3 and know that youth are very important and need every opportunity they can to be in the field. We also feel that first-time hunters and returning hunters also need a positive experience and a chance for them to go afield.

5- The National Wild Turkey Federation feels that the number of upland game opportunities in Utah are numerous, so that youth, first time, returning hunters and hunters with physical disabilities can stay engaged in the outdoors and hunting almost year round.

We thank you for your time

The Utah State Board of the National Wild Turkey Federation

2. Migratory upland game recommendations and swan rule amendments

After viewing the upland game recommendations and swan rule amendments: I am neutral on the proposal

3. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) rule amendments

After viewing the presentation about the AIS rule amendments: I am neutral on the proposal

4. Walk-in Access (WIA) rule amendments

After viewing the presentation about the WIA rule amendments: I am neutral on the proposal

5. Willard Spur WMA Habitat Management Plan

Contact information

Your name Lynn Worwood

Your email address

[REDACTED]

Zip code 84648

Are you a Utah resident? Yes

May we contact you for more information? Yes

Form Name: May/June 2020 RAC & Board feedback
Submission Time: May 8, 2020 11:07 am
Browser: Safari 13.1 / OS X
IP Address: [REDACTED]
Unique ID: 610439814
Location: [REDACTED]

Date/Time May 08, 2020 11:06 AM

Region Northeastern Region

1. Upland game and turkey guidebook and rule recommendations

After viewing the guidebook and rule recommendations for upland game and turkey: I support the proposal

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Pheasants Forever Proposal for Utah Pheasant Release Management

Submission:

Thank you for taking the time to consider this proposal from the Board of Great Salt Lake Pheasants Forever Chapter. Tom Richards as President of this chapter and John Eckert as a Board member on behalf of the entire Pheasants Forever Chapter are submitting this plan for your consideration.

Summary:

Utah to implement a system similar to Idaho's WMA pheasant release program. This proposed test program would include Utah residents and nonresidents paying to hunt released birds on a trial bases on four to five properties throughout the state.

Narrative:

Our understanding is that Utah spent \$855,000 over a four-year period for released birds while not recouping any money or any compensation for those birds other than selling small game licenses. On the other hand, Idaho has spent \$746,000 over 4 years, and have recouped over \$700,000 of those costs. This does not even include license fees, meals, and lodging spent by traveling hunters from in and out of state.

We recommend selecting five areas throughout the state for this trial release program. 10,000 additional birds would be put exclusively into this program with monies recouped by selling punch cards to the hunters for access to these special areas. Hundreds of birds would be released in the designated areas every few days, but never longer than a one week interval, so as to provide an ongoing hunting experience whenever a hunter desires to hunt. The program would be paid for by selling punchcards covering six birds at \$25 per card. A 2-bird limit per day would ensure that there were hunting opportunities for many hunters on any given day. The punch card would provide access to the release areas, and a small game hunting license would also be required. A hunter would need 3 days to fill his 6-bird punch card, but could then purchase another one to continue hunting. Out-of-state cards would also be sold for \$50, generating more revenue for the program. Three dollars and fifty cents from each punch card sold would go to the Wildlife Habitat Account earmarked for Upland Game. These cards would be sold like fishing and hunting licenses are now and at the same retail outlets.

Over the previous four years Utah has averaged \$186,500 per year on pheasants with no dollars returned. Idaho has averaged \$385,000 per year- more than twice Utah's expenditure- while receiving back \$247,460. Idaho makes more money off this program than Utah pheasant spending in total! In Idaho in 2016 (the most recent year for data) 86% of the released birds were harvested. This rate would extrapolate into 18,275 birds harvested 2019. This indicates 2,350 birds remaining in the wild to reproduce and offering expanded hunting opportunities outside the special release areas.

Utah averaged spending \$25 per bird for a combination of pheasants and

chukars, while Idaho is spending \$18.50 per bird (all roosters), which is comparable to the retail cost of hunt clubs such as Bear River Bottom. The whole pheasant program in Utah needs much closer scrutiny and much better management!

The summary of facts and figures below will indicate the success of Idaho's program, which could easily be duplicated in Utah.

Conclusion:

This program would allow more birds to be released throughout the state at less cost to the state while encouraging upland game hunting for youth and adults in our great state of Utah!

Supporting Information:

Utah expenditures on Pen-raised Birds:

FY 2017- \$179,503

FY 2018- \$180,000

FY 2019- \$186,509

FY 2020- \$199,996 (Proposed)

Total=\$746,000

Idaho has 31 WMA areas and stocks 9 of them with there pay for killed pheasant program

ID WMA Punch Card Sales

2018: 7,630 (7,083 Residents, 547 Non-residents) 7,630 total

2019: 7,951 (7,404 Residents, 629 Non-residents) 7,951 total

ID 2019 Pen raised pheasant release (all roosters)

20,625 pheasants released on 9 WMAs in southern ID

625 stocked on Access Yes! in the Clearwater Region

Total: 21,250 pheasants.

\$385,679 total cost for birds

\$2,300 for portable toilets

Total: for program=\$388,000

ID cost for one punch card allowing for 6 birds per card with 2-bird limit per day

Residents: \$28.75

non-residents: \$51.75

2. Migratory upland game recommendations and swan rule amendments

After viewing the upland game recommendations and swan rule amendments: I support the proposal

3. Aquatic invasive species (AIS) rule amendments

After viewing the presentation about the AIS rule amendments: I support the proposal

4. Walk-in Access (WIA) rule amendments

After viewing the presentation about the WIA rule amendments: I support the proposal

5. Willard Spur WMA Habitat Management Plan

Contact information

Your name John Eckert

Your email address

[REDACTED]

Zip code 84121

Are you a Utah resident? Yes

May we contact you for more information? Yes
