

# RAC AGENDA – December 2020

## Electronic Meetings Only



1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes  
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
- RAC Chair **INFORMATIONAL**
4. Regional Update  
- DWR Regional Supervisor **INFORMATIONAL**
5. R657-33 Black Bear Rule Amendments and Recommendations  
- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Program Coordinator **ACTION**

### Meeting Locations

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| <b>CR RAC</b> – Dec. 1st 6:00 PM<br><a href="https://youtu.be/UthuHkfo0rE">https://youtu.be/UthuHkfo0rE</a> | <b>SER RAC</b> – Dec. 9th 6:30 PM<br><a href="https://youtu.be/P2TcxVsXgSk">https://youtu.be/P2TcxVsXgSk</a>                 |
| <b>NR RAC</b> – Dec. 2nd 6:00 PM<br><a href="https://youtu.be/k-IsjtFJk4E">https://youtu.be/k-IsjtFJk4E</a> | <b>NER RAC</b> – Dec. 10th 6:30 PM<br><a href="https://youtu.be/d5MImA3X-6M">https://youtu.be/d5MImA3X-6M</a>                |
| <b>SR RAC</b> – Dec. 8th 6:00 PM<br><a href="https://youtu.be/NDf2S5kfDUo">https://youtu.be/NDf2S5kfDUo</a> | <b>Board Meeting</b> – Jan. 5th 9:00 am - Tuesday<br><a href="https://youtu.be/5hftBj4VNOo">https://youtu.be/5hftBj4VNOo</a> |

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability of the virus to spread from person to person, the Governor has implemented a number of Executive Orders directed at controlling spread of the virus by minimizing face-to-face interactions. Public gatherings are strongly discouraged by the CDC, State of Utah, and local health departments since they facilitate face-to-face contact and pose an elevated risk for virus transmission. The Division of Wildlife Resources and the chair of this public body have determined that public gathering at Regional Advisory Council and Wildlife Board meetings presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who attend—and will conduct this meeting using a fully electronic format. This meeting format is authorized by recent amendment to the Utah Code<sup>1</sup> and Executive Order by Utah Governor Gary Herbert<sup>2</sup>—and will be temporarily used in place of the in-person public meetings that usually occur around the state. Anyone wishing to comment on agenda topics in future meetings or to observe this meeting may do so by logging on to the Division’s webpage at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html> where instructions and links are provided.

<sup>1</sup> Utah Code Section 52-4-207(4).

<sup>2</sup> Executive Order Suspending the Enforcement of Provisions of Utah Code §§ 52-4-202 and 52-4-207, and Related State Agency Orders, Rules, and Regulations, Due to Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel, March 18, 2020.



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAL D. FOWLKS  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Predatory Mammals and Furbearer Program Coordinator

DATE: November 19, 2020

### SUBJECT: Bear Updates and Recommended Plan Alignment Changes

2021 is the third year of the three-year recommendation cycle approved by the Wildlife Board in 2019. We will not be recommending any changes to seasons or permit numbers this year.

Last year 1190 permits were issued and 443 bears were harvested. The harvest increased from 369 in 2019. Depredation incidents involving bears were up slightly, but overall costs of damage were down for the third year in a row.

Recent changes to Utah Code and DWR policy on predator management define actions the Division Director must take if we determine bears are preventing mule deer populations from reaching management plan objectives. Because of these changes, we are recommending edits to the Black Bear Management Plan so that it aligns with the new law.

- 1) Under population management: Add "If a unit is placed under a predator management plan, according to DWR Policy W1AG-4 (Managing Predatory Wildlife), that unit will be managed under the Liberal Harvest Strategy for the duration of the predator management plan, and will not count towards the 25% of units managed under this strategy."
- 2) "Predator management plan units will not be considered as part of the statewide rollup."

The current plan requires that no more than 25% of bear units be managed under the liberal harvest strategy (<25% adult males 5 years or older, and 40-45% females in the harvest). This change exempts predator management plan units from counting towards the 25%.

The plan also requires that a rollup of harvest variables (adult male 5 years and older, and females in the harvest) may not be outside the performance target ranges identified in the moderate harvest strategy. This change would not consider predator management plan units in the statewide rollup of units.