

Central Region Advisory Council
Central Region Conference Center
165 S 700 E, Springville
November 12, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: To accept the agenda as presented
Passed unanimously

Approval of the September 15, 2009 summary

MOTION: To accept the summary notes as transcribed
Passed unanimously

2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals

MOTION: To start all five day hunts on opening day
Passed 7 to 3

MOTION: To recommend a statewide five day general deer hunt for 18 and older and nine day hunt for youth 17 and younger

Failed 6 to 5 (RAC Chair voting to break tie)

MOTION: To approve the remainder of the bucks and bulls recommendations

Passed 6 to 5 (RAC Chair voting to break tie)

MOTION: A DWR representative work with the Emigration Canyon homeowners on an educational component to inform hunters of regulations in that area

Passed unanimously

Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment

MOTION: To approve the amendment to the management plan
Passed unanimously

CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment

MOTION: To approve the CWMU permit numbers as presented
Passed unanimously

MOTION: To approve the landowner permit numbers as presented
Passed unanimously

MOTION: To approve the rule amendment as proposed
Passed unanimously

Moose Management Plan

MOTION: To accept the management plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Central Region Conference Center
165 S 700 E, Springville
November 12, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Micki Bailey, BLM
John Bair, Sportsmen
Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Byron Gunderson, At Large
Richard Hansen, At Large
George Holmes, Agriculture
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive
Allan Stevens, At Large
Larry Velarde, Forest Service

Members Absent

Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair, excused
Jay Price, Elected, excused

Others Present

Rick Woodard, Wildlife Board Member
Ernie Perkins, Wildlife Board Member

1) Approval of the Agenda (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the agenda as written

Seconded by Richard Hansen

Motion passed unanimously

2) Approval of the September 15, 2009 summary (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Richard Hansen to accept the summary notes as transcribed

Seconded by Duane Smith

Motion passed unanimously

3) Regional Update (Information)

- **John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor**

Wildlife

- Youth Pheasant Hunt this Saturday at the Carr Fork WMA near Tooele
- Post season deer classification on now, pretty important data for setting season length
- Moving more antelope from the Parker Mtn. to Snake Valley (West Desert herd) December 9-10

Aquatics

- Placed a fish barrier at Three Forks, Diamond Fork Canyon
- Re-treated Granite Creek with rotenone to remove rainbow trout
- 200,000 June sucker stocked in Utah Lake this past year, worked conclude this past month

Habitat

- Working with Ensign Ranch in Skull Valley to seed five thousand acres that burned this summer. Also working with the USFS to add forbs to their fire rehab seed mix.
- Near completion on a 900-acre harrow project at the Benmore Pastures

Conservation Outreach

- Anticipating about 4000 Dedicated Hunter spots available for the drawing next January

Law Enforcement

- Generally good compliance through checkpoints
- Working antlerless elk hunts now
- Also involved in post-season deer classification

4) **2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals (Action)**

- **Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Alan Stevens – Would the additional youth archery permits allow a youth hunter to hunt all three seasons?

Anis Aoude – No, they would be archery only.

John Bair – I have had a lot of negative response to the delayed opener on the Nebo. Is the Division going to look at that?

Anis Aoude – We are certainly going to take a look at it. We don't have the harvest data back yet. We think it did reduce the harvest on the unit. The only thing we don't know is how that affected the surrounding units in the region which probably had a lot more pressure.

John Bair – From what I have heard everybody hunted one side of the road until Wednesday and then they moved to the other side of the road. I am not passing the blame on anybody. I bought the idea as much as anybody. I am seriously thinking that needs to be changed back.

Anis Aoude – There were people hunting it but not as many as would have been. That unit is not included for next year anyway.

Richard Hansen – I thought the delayed start would be good but the number of hunters were higher than ever. Do we think the delayed start will work?

Anis Aoude – I think it did reduce harvest.

Duane Smith – I couldn't follow the data presented for the statewide archery hunt. It seems the data was all based on the regions being separated.

Anis Aoude – The data showed where the people chose to hunt. They could have picked any region, there was no cap. We wanted to show where the people hunted.

Questions for Joan Gallegos regarding the Emigration Canyon area

John Bair – You just want the information you shared with us to be put in the guidebook?

Joan Gallegos – I would like a course similar to the extended archery course be required to show hunters where the one mile radius is that hunters are not allowed to be in. If you folks have another idea or another avenue we are certainly willing to entertain that.

John Bair – Are we talking about limited entry elk and moose hunters?

Anis Aoude – General season deer and elk hunters can hunt in that area. It is north of I-80.

John Bair – But you are not asking to close it down or keep the hunters out?

Joan Gallegos – This does not apply to archery. I am just asking that the hunters be made aware of the cabin zone, which a large part of the canyon is, and hunters should not be there.

Matt Clark – As the laws states now hunters could potentially hunt in that area?

Joan Gallegos – No. Technically they cannot because it is in the rule that a cabin zone exists there. If I were a hunter it would be difficult for me to know where the cabin zone is. I don't think people realize how much development has gone on in Emigration Canyon. This would be a good tool for hunters so they know where it is so they can avoid potential conflicts with homeowners.

Matt Clark – So it is just a way of educating the hunters in the area what the boundaries are. You are not requesting to close areas?

Joan Gallegos – No. I am asking that the cabin zone rule that is in the DWR rule be proactively educated to hunters who would be hunting in that area.

George Holmes – So a hunter that wanted to hunt in the area would have to go online and get a certificate that they have completed a course to hunt in that area.

Joan Gallegos – Correct.

George Holmes – Do you have homeowners who complain of deer or elk problems?

Joan Gallegos – No. I think homeowners in Emigration Canyon have a responsible attitude toward the environment and the animals in the area.

Fred Oswald – If these are only limited entry hunters it will be easy to know who will be hunting in the area and you could require an educational course.

Anis Aoude – That area is also open to general season elk and deer hunters.

Fred Oswald – Given that fact, do you see an easy way to educate hunters who are part of the general population who might decide they want to hunt in that area?

Anis Aoude – That would be difficult. The rule is already there and it is their responsibility to be aware of it.

Joan Gallegos – I don't think they understand that they can't hunt there.

Anis Aoude - You would have to require all the general season northern region permit holders to take the course.

Richard Hansen – Is this not a sheriff issue?

Anis Aoude – It is in our rule and we often get calls to respond.

Questions from the Public

Jason Binder – How big an area do we count to get buck to doe ratios? Why don't we implement a point restriction on deer? It works for elk. Why can't we manage deer on a unit to unit basis?

Anis Aoude – We classify deer on entire units. We try to get a sample size of at least 400 does per unit. As far as point restrictions, we did try it in the 80's and it did nothing to increase buck to doe ratios. Nor did it do anything to increase the mature bucks in the population. What it basically did was delayed the harvest of yearlings by one year and we harvested them as two year olds. The reason the spike hunt works is because elk are longer lived than deer. You can stock pile them. You cannot stock pile deer. If you get one bad winter you loose most of bucks in the population. Different models work for different species. We are basically managing on a unit by unit basis. All of our classifications are done on a unit by unit basis and when units fall below the buck to doe ratio we deal with them on a unit basis.

Colby Cowdell – I don't understand why 1,000 tags were added to the central this year when we had units that were below objective? I would suggest reducing the tags by 1,000 again. I hunted the Stansbury unit and have for the last five years. There were probably three times as many hunters on Wednesday than any other year. Another question I had was, is it possible to separate the Oquirrh and Stansbury into two separate units?

Anis Aoude – The 1,000 permits were not added. There are included in the cap for the region. When we went into the new statewide plan where we deal with units on their own we put the cap back to where it was and dealt with those units that were below objective. There could have been more people hunting the Oquirrh Stansbury unit. Those units are classified separately and both of them are currently below objective when you look off the CWMUs.

Roy Hampton – UBA – Do you think shortening the archery season did anything on the five units that were below objective?

Anis Aoude – It is hard to say without getting the data back yet. My prediction would be no it did not.

Comments from the Public

Michael Anderson – UBA Vice President – We are in support of moving the archery hunt back to statewide. We are in a realistic situation in which the population of Utah is growing. We can anticipate therefore that the population of Utah hunters will also grow. We understand that Utah

Wildlife must be funded. The primary source is permits followed by Pitman Robinson funding. The bow hunters spend a lot of money on equipment. Bow hunters also offer the most participation with the least harvest. It is in the interest of all hunters that we promote bow hunting in every way possible. Every bow hunter is one less rifle hunter. Addressing Joan from Emigration Canyon area, Bowhunters of Utah recently looked at the situation going on in Park City where the extended bow hunting area was opened to include Park City. Our primary concern was possible conflicts between hunters and landowners. Bowhunters of Utah have created a place on our web site using google earth to show hunters legally accessible points. We would be more than happy to do the same thing for Emigration Canyon. I see no reason why the Division could not include a notation in the guide book to direct hunters to this particular web site and inform themselves of where the legal access points and hunting areas are. I have seen hunters setting up on the freeway in Parleys Canyon and I recognize the problems that landowners are having. No one wants conflicts between landowners and hunters. I think we can work with the Division to set up a type of an educational program. Not mandatory but simply offered out to hunters. I think most hunters want to be law abiding. It is just a matter of getting the information out there to them.

Dave Woodhouse – SFW – I think it would be easy to note in the guidebook, know your boundaries in Emigration Canyon before you hunt there. On the deer hunt – I have received a ton of feedback from our membership. A lot of our members are my age with young kids. They are struggling on the general deer hunts to find deer when they take their kids out. If you put in the time and you scout you can find a good buck. I can't take my kids into the backcountry and give them a quality hunt. I want to be able to take my kids out and let them see some deer. Right now that is not happening. A lot of our members are saying what are we doing for the kids? We have taken the kids out and they are not seeing deer. They want to stay home and play wii and play station. They would rather do basketball and football. We are not recruiting hunters. We add these archery tags for youth but those kids don't have deer to hunt. We would ask that the whole central region go to a five day region wide hunt. In the spring we will talk about numbers of tags. Right now if we don't do something we are not recruiting new hunters. The Manti herd is at 54 percent of objective. The southeast and southern regions voted for a five day hunt. We need to send a message that there is a concern. It is only going to get worse. We could go with a five day hunt for 18 and older and a nine day hunt for youth under 18 to give them two weekends.

Jason Binder – The Division is working hard to manage the animals. We work hard to manage predators and we are not managing the ultimate predator – ourselves. On the road I drive to work there are five to ten deer are hit everyday. We are not doing anything to protect them from getting run over. There are more deer killed by cars than most sportsmen kill in their life. My kids are not seeing deer. They are not having the opportunity I had. I support the 1,500 youth archery tags but I think those should be deducted from the total quota. I also think the deer tags should be trimmed back. You can have whatever length of season you want it is not going to help. We need to find a way to bring the deer back.

Roy Hampton – UBA – We are in favor of going back to statewide archery. I was on that committee. We have seen the numbers. There really isn't a crowding problem. We will kill less deer when everyone is using a bow. Thank you for your time.

Chad Coburn – I am a bit concerned that I did not see any reduction for the ultimate predator. The ultimate predator in Utah has two legs and four wheels. We put 100,000 deer hunters in the hills with a 30 percent success rate. That is 30,000 deer killed. It is a well known fact that that many more deer are killed on the highways. We just heard that the Manti unit is below objective. There is a predator management plan set forth in the state of Utah which says if the deer herd drops below a number the unit is put on predator management. Once again I see no management

of the predators in the state of Utah. I am worried about the youth as well. It is unacceptable to destroy my sport and there are no repercussions for other sports. My suggestion is any unit in the state of Utah under a predator management plan the deer hunt be shut down and give those deer a chance to come back. Thank you for your time.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – I didn't hear anyone say they were happy with how things are. That tells me we need to do something. I know big changes are coming but I don't think we should wait. I think we need to remember too that the number of bucks you kill or don't kill only affects your buck to doe ratio. It doesn't grow more fawns. I think we need to go to a five day hunt. You could leave the youth hunt nine days. One thing we definitely need to do is open the five day hunts the same as the others. I'll take as much heat on that as anyone. I thought it was a great idea. I now think that was a very bad idea. It might have been a great idea that didn't pan out. The crowding on the Wasatch unit was a problem. We need to go to a five day hunt and start them all the same.

Alan Stevens – Two years ago when we were talking about five day versus nine day we got good data from the DWR that showed just as many or more deer are killed on a five day hunt as a nine day hunt. The excuse for not changing back to a nine day hunt was we were waiting for the deer management plan. We've only had the deer management plan in place for one year and we haven't even given it a chance. We as RAC members and the Board and the Division of Wildlife Resources use the excuse that we want to implement a deer management plan and then not even give it a chance to work. It think that is a big mistake on our part. In my opinion the biggest problem with our deer management plan is our buck to doe ratio idea. You could have essentially ten deer on a unit and have two bucks and it would meet the management objectives. When we look at the deer management plan again which isn't for another four years that is something we ought to address. We don't even really have the data from the late opener. We should at least get the data back and be able to look at it before we have a knee jerk reaction.

George Holmes – Anis, when you count the buck to doe ratio you have some confidence you count all the bucks don't you?

Anis Aoude – We don't count. It is a classification. It is a statistical sample that is extrapolated to get the population.

George Holmes – How do you do that?

Anis Aoude – We go out and classify enough numbers that we can feel confident that that would extrapolate the population.

George Holmes – I do a fair amount of work at night cutting and baling hay and I know in the day I see a lot of deer and in the night I see a lot of bucks. I am wondering if you really have a chance to count them.

Anis Aoude – Exactly, if anything it is an under estimate of bucks.

George Holmes – I have spent a lot of time in the mountains riding for cattle. I know I don't see very many deer high in the in the mountains. But in Wallsburg any night of the year I can show you over 200 deer. Unfortunately they are not in the Mountains and I don't know the reason. I think the population is there and I think it is something that needs to be harvested. I support your recommendations. I think there are more bucks than are seen.

Duane Smith – I agree with Alan about the buck to doe ratio. You have told us you extrapolate the information so you have a population number and I guess we need to see that and the public needs to see that so we have an idea of how many tags we are allocating against a particular population number as it relates to that buck to doe ratio. Then we would have a little better comfort zone about the management plan and the kinds of things that are going on with it. You may have your hands exactly on the things that are there but somehow that isn't getting communicated to those of us on the RAC and the people out there who are constantly frustrated when they go out in the field and they don't see the animals. We need to communicate what our

mathematical models are and the data we are putting into it. I know how hard it is to get but I would like to see it.

Richard Hansen – I too have been inundated by emails and phone calls. What I have come up with is that 80 percent of the people are not happy. Maybe 10 to 15 percent would complain no matter what. The majority of the hunters are unhappy with the general season deer hunt. I bet 90 percent of them stated that they would rather be able to hunt every two years and have a good hunt then hunt every year and have a poor hunt. I went on the web site and I looked at the Nebo. In 2006 the winter population was 21,579 and now they changed the model that they use to estimate the number of deer on the unit. The next year it went down to 10,900. In 2008 they said there were 11,000. Now they say there are 21 bucks per 100 does so they have taken it off a five day hunt. The problem I see is that you look at the fawn production on the unit and it is 36 fawns per 100 does. That is the worst it has been in ten years. Anis said you don't grow a deer herd by saving bucks; you grow it by having production. I think we are to the point on some of these units where they are so depressed that you never see a growth in the population. Everything that is produced in the spring is killed by predators including us. I remember if we had a hard winter the deer hunt the next fall would be tough. Within three years the deer would be back. That never happens anymore. I think it is because we don't poison predators anymore. I wish we would be more active in promoting predator control. I challenge you to show me 21 bucks per 100 does on the Nebo. I support the five day hunt.

VOTING

**Motion was made by John Bair to start all five day hunts on opening day, no late opener
Seconded by Richard Hansen**

George Holmes – Why did the DWR want to start the hunt late?

Anis Aoude – The mule deer committee wanted to shorten hunts on units that are under 15 bucks per 100 does but long term data has shown that just shortening a hunt does not decrease harvest. We wanted to come up with a more innovative way to shorten a hunt to reduce harvest. I agree that socially it was difficult – it may not have been the best idea. I think it did reduce harvest on units that we wanted to reduce harvest on but there were crowding issues other places.

George Holmes – Could a five day hunt that is started on opening day reduce harvest?

Anis Aoude – No, you would have the same harvest as you would with a nine day hunt.

John Bair – And I will argue that with you all day long. You can't shorten the ball game by a quarter and have the same score.

Anis Aoude – Yes you can. You can get to that score before the game ends and if you are shutting the game down based on the score not on the length of the game you can. On average people hunt three and a half to four days. If you shorten the hunt to five days they are still going to be able to hunt three and a half to four days and harvest the same number of bucks.

John Bair – There are a lot of deer that show up at the meat locker the second weekend. You are going to save some of those deer.

Anis Aoude – No you are not because they will harvest them in five days if that is all you give people.

Alan Stevens - I agree with Anis. I saw it on the Manti. When they had a five day hunt there were 100 percent more deer killed. People were taking the first buck they saw. The data clearly shows that shortening the hunt does not help the deer unit.

Anis Aoude – For example, Colorado tried a five day hunt and even a three day hunt and was not able to decrease harvest. That is when they went to unit by unit management.

Richard Hansen – So why don't we go to a three day hunt. Why don't we sell as many permits as people want to buy?

Anis Aoude – You CAN limit harvest by limiting the number of permits.

Richard Hansen – Okay then that is the direction we need to go.

Fred Oswald – I think we need to agree to disagree here.

Richard Hansen – This is a social issue as much as anything else. A five day hunt is a feel good thing. Maybe we save ten percent of the bucks.

Anis Aoude – You won't.

Richard Hansen – In my experience hunting is always better the year after a year with bad weather and the hunters can't get out in the field. My point is what are we going to do to increase the buck to doe ratio and the population?

Fred Oswald – We need to speak to the motion or be ready to vote.

Matt Clark – Do we want to consider the nine day hunt for youth?

John Bair – This doesn't have to do with youth. If it is a five day hunt it starts opening day.

In Favor: John Bair, Richard Hansen, Duane Smith, Larry Fitzgerald, Matt Clark, Larry Velarde, Byron Gunderson

Opposed: Micki Bailey, Alan Stevens, George Holmes

Motion passed 7 to 3

**Motion was made by John Bair to recommend a statewide five day general season deer hunt
Seconded by Richard Hansen**

Alan Stevens – The more we shorten hunts the more we discourage youth from getting out in the field.

John Bair – I will amend my motion.

Motion amended by John Bair to recommend a statewide five day general deer hunt for 18 and older and nine day hunt for youth 17 and younger

Second stands

George Holmes - What if someone has a birthday during the hunt?

John Bair – Then they would probably get a new gun and go hunting.

Anis Aoude – They would have to be the required age before the hunt starts.

In Favor: John Bair, Duane Smith, Richard Hansen, Matt Clark, Byron Gunderson

Opposed: Micki Bailey, Larry Fitzgerald, Larry Velarde, George Holmes, Alan Stevens

Fred Oswald, RAC Chair votes against the motion

Motion failed 6 to 5

**Motion was made by Alan Stevens to approve the remainder of the bucks and bulls
recommendations**

Seconded by George Holmes

In Favor: Micki Bailey, Alan Stevens, George Holmes, Larry Velarde, Byron Gunderson

Opposed: John Bair, Duane Smith, Richard Hansen, Larry Fitzgerald, Matt Clark

Fred Oswald, RAC Chair votes in favor on the motion

Motion passed 6 to 5

Motion was made by George Holmes that a DWR representative work with the Emigration Canyon homeowners on an educational component to inform hunters of regulations in that area

Richard Hansen – How much would that cost?

Anis Aoude – It should not be a cost issue. We could put a few lines in the guidebook to direct people to a web site where they could find information about the area. This would have to be voluntary not mandatory.

John Bair – It is not practical to have all of northern region have to take a test.

Seconded by Alan Stevens

In favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

5) Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment (Action)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – How can a hunter know they are killing a five year old buck?

Anis Aoude – We are not basing it on someone knowing what a five year old buck is. If there are lots of mature bucks out there and you go out and harvest a bunch of them the changes of you killing an older buck if you are hunting for a big rack are going to be larger if we are managing the unit correctly. We are managing for an older age class in the population.

Comments from the Public

Michael Anderson – I was a mule deer committee member and I am in full support of this proposal as is UBA. I also wanted to applaud the work of Anis who has done outstanding work on this along with Kent Hersey who has provided a lot of background information. They have restored a lot of our faith and confidence in the Division.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – I think when you look at all the reasons for this adjustment to the plan that is only a year old it is a good idea.

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to approve the amendment to the management plan

Seconded by Matt Clark

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

6) CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment (Action)

- Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator

CWMU Recommendations

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – Did you say there were one or two you didn't approve?

Boyde Blackwell – The Alton CWMU on the Paunsaugunt requested to receive management buck deer permits and we are recommending no management buck deer permits.

Questions from the Public

Michael Anderson – Are CWMUs eligible for mitigation funds?

Boyde Blackwell – No.

Mike Christensen – Where the Coyote Little Pole requested one additional moose tag does that change their public private ratio?

Boyde Blackwell – What happened was that CWMU missed a request for their permits. That will keep their ratio at 60 / 40.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – What would a CWMU management buck deer permit be? Wouldn't it be just another permit?

Boyde Blackwell – That's right. They can use any one of their deer permits as management deer permits and some do. If it were a management deer tag they would have to check in the deer.

Richard Hansen – Can't the CWMU shoot a management buck if they choose to?

Boyde Blackwell – Yes.

Anis Aoude – It is a round-a-bout way to get more tags.

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to approve the CWMU permit numbers as presented

Seconded by Duane Smith

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Limited Entry Landowner Recommendations

Questions from the RAC

Alan Stevens – Can you clarify the difference between a landowner association and a CWMU?

Boyde Blackwell – If landowners do not have enough acreage to be a CWMU a landowner association allows them to receive some compensation for having wildlife on their lands.

Fred Oswald – And the landowners have to adhere to the regular season hunt dates.

Boyde Blackwell – Yes.

Larry Fitzgerald – Why is 10,000 acres required for a CWMU?

Boyde Blackwell – That has been by rule for a lot of years now. We feel that for elk and moose that that makes a very good usable hunting unit. For deer it is 5,000 acres. The idea is to make this a good quality hunt with good opportunity.

Larry Fitzgerald – Would you look at smaller parcels and consider them?

Boyde Blackwell – There is a process by rule but if they do that it takes them an extra year to be able to apply. They must apply in writing in August and then it would come before the Division and then it would go to the advisory committee for review and then it would go from there to a recommendation to the Wildlife Board. At this point we are really discouraging that.

Larry Fitzgerald – Why is that?

Boyde Blackwell – For consistency sake for one thing and because we feel like the 5,000 and 10,000 acres make good useable hunt units.

Larry Fitzgerald – You are discouraging it before considering it.

Boyde Blackwell – We want to make sure they are good. They can follow the rule and still be included. Don't get me wrong there.

Larry Fitzgerald - Could smaller landowners get management bull permits.

Boyde Blackwell – No. There is no such thing as a management bull permit on those units.

Larry Fitzgerald – Could it be considered in the future?

Boyde Blackwell – That's a possibility and we are always open to suggestions and we will be looking at those kinds of things down the road.

Larry Fitzgerald – I am representing some private lands and we have large numbers of elk on these lands and we can't get any permits.

Boyde Blackwell – We try to address that through the landowner associations. There are going to be some units out there that don't qualify as a landowner association. The rule is addressed every five years and the last time it was reviewed was in 2007 and there may be changes requested down the road.

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to approve the landowner permit numbers as presented

Seconded by George Holmes

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Rule R657-37 amendment

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – Give us an example of a 501c3 organization.

Boyde Blackwell – The Make a Wish Foundation is one but there are many others.

Fred Oswald – And what would the organization do with the donated voucher?

Boyde Blackwell – They would donate it to someone. For example they may have someone with a terminal illness that has never had the opportunity to hunt elk and they could give them that opportunity on a CWMU.

Fred Oswald – No money can exchange.

Boyde Blackwell – No.

Motion was made by John Bair to approve the rule amendment as proposed

Seconded by George Holmes

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

7) Moose Management Plan (Action)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Fred Oswald – Was there a committee for this plan?

Anis Aoude – No. It was developed internally and then sent out for review and comment. It is not as contentious an issue.

Fred Oswald – How did you come up the number you are shooting for?

Anis Aoude – We are going to have the regions come up with unit plans and the sum of those unit plans will be the management objective for the state. Right now we are at about 3,500 moose in the state.

John Bair – How far south do we have moose?

Anis Aoude – As far south as the Fish Lake. The numbers there are dropping.

John Bair – We found one while we were bear hunting on the Manti this fall.

Anis Aoude – We have even had some as far south as Cedar show up.

Fred Oswald – Is there a moose population on the LaSals or the Abajos?

Anis Aoude – There isn't a moose population. We did have a couple show up in Colorado on the LaSals this year but there is not enough aspen habitat at high enough altitude to really carry moose on the LaSals.

Questions from the Public

Dave Woodhouse – There are always some bull moose on the north Manti. Why not open that for one tag or add it to the Wasatch?

Anis Aoude – We certainly could do that. That is not out of the question. I would ask the regions to get together and figure out how to do that.

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the management plan as presented

Seconded by Larry Velarde

John Bair – Are there enough moose on the north Manti we could put tags there now?

Anis Aoude – We could add it to the Wasatch but not increase permit numbers at all.

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

8) 2011 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Hunt Structure (Informational)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – On the combination deer and elk hunt would the limited entry elk units be included in the combo?

Anis Aoude – The elk hunts on those units will be spike only.

Fred Oswald – What is the rationale for having the opening day be on a date and not a day of the week?

Anis Aoude – Biologically it makes sense because animals go into the rut around a certain calendar date every year. If you want to try to keep the hunt around the rut you want to start on a calendar date rather than the third Saturday. That could move as much as a week away from the rut or into the rut. One of the big things we are trying to do with this is try to keep the limited entry elk hunt for all weapon types near the rut which also keeps it consistent for the deer as well. You make sure you are staying out of the deer rut.

Fred Oswald – I can see how you always have to balance the scientific and social issues. A question about the length of the hunt, it seems if you are combining the total days of the divided elk hunt you are coming up with 18 days versus right now it is 11 or 12. You are adding almost another week. With deer you are almost doubling the season.

Anis Aoude – Correct, but you are cutting the permits in half as well. They could only hunt one or the other. No one person could hunt for 18 days.

Fred Oswald - But what about the impact on the animals?

Anis Aoude – You are not really doubling the time or hunter hours in the field.

Richard Hansen – Do you anticipate the success to be higher?

Anis Aoude – It is hard to say what to anticipate because you will have lighter pressure and we have never had that low a number of hunters in the field. If success is high there are ways to shift hunters when we see that. It may be different for the first couple of years but then it will probably bounce back to what it always has been which is 20 to 30 percent for deer and 10 to 12 percent for elk.

Richard Hansen – Does this do anything to help increase the herds?

Anis Aoude – It gives us more options for management. Say if a unit falls below objective we could still hunt it on the early and not the late which would cut hunting pressure in half. It does give us more flexibility to manage hunting pressure on a particular unit.

Fred Oswald – So if I wanted to hunt the northern region for both deer and elk I would have a first choice and my first choice for elk would be early season and my second choice elk would be late season and my first choice for deer would be early and second choice late. I might end up getting my first choice on elk but my second choice on deer.

Anis Aoude - We are talking about things like letting people opt out if they don't get the deer or elk they wanted. These are things we are still working through.

John Bair – One of the things I have had a lot of comments on is the muzzleloader hunt being sandwiched between two rifle hunts. Looking at it I don't see why you couldn't flip the muzzleloader hunt with the first rifle hunt.

Anis Aoude – You could. The reason we did that was to separate the rifle hunts from each other. We have received the same comments also.

Duane Smith – I got the opposite response. People were glad to see that with the current technology with muzzleloaders they did not get the first chance to hunt.

Alan Stevens – How would the dedicated hunter program work?

Anis Aoude – It would basically stay the same and we would split the tags for early and late. 5,000 would have to choose the early and 5,000 would have to choose the late.

Alan Stevens – So would that become another draw you would have to enter?

Anis Aoude – They have to draw for dedicated hunter now and they would have to choose then. It would complicate it slightly but given all the other changes it is not insurmountable.

Questions from the Public

Dave Woodhouse – On the archery I see you have the limited entry not starting until September first. Why not overlap the other archery hunt.

Anis Aoude – That could work. We are trying to overlap as little as possible because we have had complaints.

Richard Hansen – Concerning the deer herd, does it matter if you give them a break in between hunts?

Anis Aoude - I don't believe it does. We currently have hunters out there almost every season as it is. This would concentrate hunter pressure into a shorter period of time. The rest of it is limited entry.

Duane Smith – I think there are studies on that. They have shown that if you continually hunt them they don't relax themselves. If you release the pressure on them they relax and you have kind of an opening day again.

Anis Aoude – Keep in mind that deer and elk and all those species are a prey species and are used to being hunted either by us or other things 24/7. We can only hunt them in the daytime but there are a slough of other things that chase them when we're not.

Mike Christensen – Have you done studies about when you reduce hunter pressure what happens to hunter success?

Anis Aoude – Success could possibly go up. It is unknown. It could go down. Sometimes with less pressure there isn't enough pressure to move deer around. Again we can adjust numbers to deal with that.

Mike Christensen – You said if a unit was struggling you could do away with the late hunt. Are you saying the Division is willing to give up half the rifle deer tags on unit?

Anis Aoude – You wouldn't have to cut permits. You could just close that unit for the second hunt. It is general season so the whole region could hunt minus that one unit. You know you reduce harvest by 50 percent.

Mike Petersen – Are you going to open limited entry elk units up later for general any bull?

Anis Aoude – No, there is no general any bull hunting on limited entry units.

Comments from the Public

Jeff Green – I think we ought to have a five day hunt instead of nine day on both hunts. I also think the archery hunt should be shortened. I also want to talk about deer fence. Where I grew up in Beaver my mom is a nurse at the hospital and since the deer fence was put up there hasn't been a fatality or anyone hospitalized. If we could get money to put more deer fence up we could save more lives and more animals. I think cars kill more animals than hunters. My dad is a farmer who has damage from deer and he can't draw a deer tag. So he complains and they give him four antlerless deer tags from August to the end of September. They say they won't go any later because the deer migrate. They only migrate from the field to the cedar trees. Maybe some of these guys who raise hay and work their guts out all year and they can't get a buck tag could donate 30 bales of hay for a buck tag and then you could feed these deer that don't have feed during the winter.

Ryan Thornock – Utah Farm Bureau Federation – The Farm Bureau policy as voted on by the members support the general season deer being the Saturday closest to the 20th of October and I know the Division has suggested that be date certain and I don't think the Farm Bureau would

have a problem as long as that is after the 15th of October. The concern there is that most of BLM and Forest Service permits for livestock close on the 15th of October. Until that time livestock is still on the mountain. By moving the general season deer and elk hunts to the front of October there is going to be a lot more hunter livestock interaction. We think that is a negative for both livestock and hunters. If you get 200 or 300 cows coming down a draw and five or six hunters coming up that is a very frustrating situation for both parties. When the legislation was changed the majority of the opposition came from the livestock owners because this would become a problem. That is our concern. We support leaving the date after the 15th.

Mike Christensen – Our deer herd to me is at a fragile point. I know where I hunt if there is an early season hunt you will kill a lot of deer. It is an above timberline kind of an area. The mature bucks are there ten days before the hunt and then they move to cover. While this idea may have merit on some units, on many units it is a tough one. We say we are hunting these animals for a month anyway so let's just throw it out there. In a lot of areas the deer and elk don't overlap. The deer in those areas really only get hunted a week here and there. If we hunt 20 straight days it could have a negative affect. It might not but I think the risk outweighs the reward there. If our herds were more numerous we could maybe try this. I applaud the Division for looking at a different way to skin the cat but I hope we don't skin it too fast.

Fred Oswald – We have had for three years now a northern combo hunt and I think the Division can look at that and see what we have learned from that hunt.

Thomas Peterson – I extremely disagree with this gentleman here about the amount of bucks in the valley. I am out feeding every night. The deer are in a horrible place right now. We don't have the bucks. The thing that scares me about what we've got is if we don't give kids a decent hunting experience they won't hunt. I hope the DWR doesn't already have all this in line and I hope the RAC will take our comments because I don't think the DWR takes your comments. The DWR should be really proud of what they have done with the elk herds in Sanpete County. You have some nice big bulls there and it is a good place to hunt elk.

Fred Oswald – I commend the Division for their work and thank you for your comments. This has been done very civilly tonight and I appreciate that. I want to thank all those who sent in emails and those will be part of the record as well. There will be further discussion on this. I want to give the RAC members a chance to tell us what they think at this point.

RAC Comments

Larry Velarde – Anis, good job. I commend you and the Division for bringing this up with a year and a half to think about this. As you heard there are a lot of concerns and a lot of good ideas. I think the Division will listen to those. There are some things we can change. I think we could move the muzzleloader hunt. I don't bow hunt or use a muzzleloader but they need a good opportunity. There is a lot to digest and I think giving us some time to do that will help.

Alan Stevens – I like the idea of the limited entry schedule but I am in strong opposition to the rest of the proposal. I think that it decreases hunting opportunity. You don't have the number of weekends and that is when most people can hunt. You have less days afield if you are deer hunting and elk hunting at the same time. One of the most enjoyable parts of my hunt is being out with my boys three and four and five weekends. I guess I am different than a lot of hunters. I don't care if I ever kill another animal to tell you the truth but I love being out there with my boys. With this proposal I can see we would be out hunting one weekend. I don't see how it helps families. When you have to put in for a draw without knowing what permit numbers are going to be, that is totally ridiculous. The other thing that discourages families is the draw fees. I

have four boys and if you put the elk hunt into the draw that is another 50 or 60 dollars just for the chance to get to hunt. For those reasons I am strongly opposed to this proposal.

Byron Gunderson – The one thing I have heard is that the deer herd is in trouble. We need to think creatively about ways other than controlling the hunt to bring back the deer. Re-vegetation, our ranges have moved from deer browse to grass which favors the elk. If we are going to reestablish the deer herd we need to think about other things than controlling the hunters. I kind of like the idea of a split season. The early part of October would be good for youngsters. There is good and bad. I like spreading the pressure between two hunts.

Richard Hansen – In all this discussion the thing that is most important to me is that somehow we protect the resource in a way that allows it to grow. We get so worried about managing people and success rates but what are we doing for the animals? I love to hunt; I haven't killed a deer in 18 years now. I am selective and everybody is not like that. Carrying capacity doesn't exist anymore because we so are worried about having the opportunity. What kind of opportunity are we going to have? We are losing young hunters because they don't have a good experience. If all they see when they go out are does they are not excited about next years hunt. I mentioned that people would rather hunt every other year and have a great experience than hunt every year. I hope with all this we are doing we keep that uppermost. I think deer fence and things like that can protect these animals and that would help.

George Holmes – I saw your list of pros and cons. I think that the potential conflict with livestock should be listed as one of the cons. I agree with the gentleman who said the important thing is for families to be out together. I suspect they can camp and not be hunting too but I think that needs to be considered.

John Bair – Going back to the experience this year with the late opener, the thing that sucked about opening day was the number of people. We knew there were big bucks there but there so many people. You wouldn't have seen more people if you were at the mall. It was a bad experience. There were people all over and no one saw any deer. If we can do something to reduce the number of people out there we should. If the customers, the hunters, feel like they are out there too long and they want to shorten the season then that is something we should look at. I am not opposed to a split season. I think that might make the experience better. We are not increasing hunter days and we are reducing the crowding. It is not fun to be on a crowded hunt. The hunt can be screwed up in the first five minutes and then you are just walking around the mountains for a day, not that that is not a good way to spend the day but your hunt is over. I would be in favor of switching the muzzleloader and the first rifle season. The other thing I have heard is to shorten the rifle seasons, even to seven days. It is good to see something out of the box – status quo is unacceptable. There is definitely something here to work with.

Duane Smith – I think we can benefit from the statistics available from Colorado. They have had split seasons for a long time and they hunt three seasons as well as overlap deer and elk. We could look at that data. John and I don't agree about the muzzleloader. I like where you have put it. Many people know that I traveled the state and fought against point restriction and ultimately that was changed. I did the same to try to get the muzzleloader moved off of the rut. The main reason people want that changed is because of the new technology and the fact that muzzleloaders are no longer a primitive weapon. I think this is very forward looking. I understand the conflict with livestock but we really have that now with the elk prior to the 15th of October. If you split the number of deer hunters between two hunts that would alleviate some pressure. Congratulations for putting something out there that is different. I too feel that the resource needs to be protected and anything that will do that I would like to see. Colorado has found that this protects the resource and the quality of the hunt is better.

Fred Oswald – I appreciate Rick and Ernie being here. They have been in on a very good discussion. I would only hope we don't make up our minds too quickly. As we listen to people, ask questions and think about the opportunities in the next year we will come up with a good plan. People are going to disagree but by having these kinds of dialogs and being good listeners and asking good questions we are going to come up with a really good plan. Thank you for that.

9) Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Action Log Item – Informational)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – The more you can do to keep animals off the road the better. We are not only talking about the mortality of the animal, we are talking about a lot of property damage that occurs. It is in the millions of dollars in this state alone. We also have to keep in mind that this protects people, it is a safety issue.

Anis Aoude – That is often the one card that we do use. It is a safety issue. DOT in Arizona did get sued and now they are much more proactive.

Alan Stevens – How much research and work has been done looking at planting ice cream plants next to roadsides? In all your talks with UDOT I would strongly recommend that vegetation planted along roadways not be ice cream plants.

Anis Aoude – We work with them a little bit on that. Sometimes the plants that grow best in that environment are planted or that is what comes in on its own.

Alan Stevens – You could use Division land to plant what deer want to eat away from highways.

Anis Aoude – We do that. A lot of our lands are winter ranges so we would not want to replace good browse with alfalfa. It is a balance. We try to do that where we can. I think the best way is to address areas where deer and elk get hit with fencing and crossing structures.

George Holmes – You said 73 percent were female so that means 28 percent were males.

Anis Aoude – The ratio comes to about 15 bucks per 100 does if you took the fawns out.

George Holmes – So you count the fawns as males too if they are?

Anis Aoude – Right, but not in our classifications. On this study they were.

Duane Smith – Is there any data that shows salting on the highway is an attractant? Is there anything that could be used as a deterrent?

Anis Aoude – Unless it is toxic to the animal it won't. If it's a mineral salt eventually it is going to end up on the side of the road.

Duane Smith – Do we have any information about the condition of the deer using the areas?

Anis Aoude – There is not a lot of information on that. Hopefully these studies will show us some of that. We are going to be radio collaring some animals.

Richard Hansen – Do they count unborn fawns in the spring?

Anis Aoude – No.

Richard Hansen – If does are pregnant we are sometimes killing three deer.

Anis Aoude – That is why that number of 72 percent female could be a pretty big deal.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

in attendance

Next board meeting December 2nd and 3rd at the DNR auditorium

Next RAC meeting December 15th at Central Region Conference Center

Northern Regional Advisory Council

Nov 10, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center

<u>RAC Present</u>	<u>DWR Present</u>	<u>Wildlife Board</u>
Robert Byrnes –At Large	Jodie Anderson	Ernie Perkins
John Cavitt-Noncon.	Randy Wood	Bill Fenimore
Paul Cowley-Forest Service	Ron Hodson	
James Gaskill- At Large	Kent Hersey	
Michael Gates-BLM	Boyde Blackwell	
Russ Lawrence- At Large	Kirt Enright	
Jon Leonard-Sportsman	Anis Aoude	
Ann Neville- Noncon.	Darren Debloois	
Brad Slater-Elected (Chair)	Jodi Becker	
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman	Clint Brunson	
John Wall- At Large	Scott Davis	
	Scott McFarlane	
	Mitch Lane	
	Matt Burgess	

RAC Absent

Joel Ferry- Agric

Shawn Groll- At Large

Meeting Begins: 6:00 p.m.

Number of Pages: 24

Introduction: Brad Slater

Agenda:

Review of Agenda

Review of Sept 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Old Business

Regional Update

2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals

Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment

CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment

Moose Management Plan

2011 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Hunt Structure

Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Action Log Item)

Election of Officers

Millville Elk Strategic Plan

Cache Working Group

Item 1. Review and Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: Byrnes- Approve the agenda as published.

Second: Neville

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Sept 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Gaskill- Approve the minutes.

Second: Lawrence

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 3. Old Business

Gaskill- Interested in what happens after we do our business here and it goes to the board. It does not seem like we get much feedback from the board. That is an important part of the administrative process and it is important for that information to come back. We have talked about that before but I do not see much change.

Slater- That needs to be improved upon on my part. I have probably missed some important feedback but it is important to add that in and discuss.

Lawrence- Thank Ron Hodson for sending out follow up email with questions that was unresolved during the last meeting.

Item 4. Regional Update

Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

Busy fall season. Law Enforcement spread thin. Fall habitat projects on DWR lands.

RAC Comment

Gaskill- I am in a unique position to see how the law enforcement officers work and I want to say that they are excellent.

Slater- They are the only law enforcement agency in the state that requires a degree and are the least paid.

Gaskill- But they are among the best in what they do.

Slater- That is just my editorial comment because they require a degree and yet they are probably the least paid and some of the most dedicated.

Item 5. 2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Cowley- On Bighorn Sheep, can you tell me how many permits are we looking at for the 3 individual units?

Aoude- We will not set permits until March. Roughly it will be 1 or 2 permits on each.

Cowley- So this is merely authorizing?

Aoude- Yes.

Gaskill- You made a pretty convincing presentation last year that shortening the season to 5 days was not very effective in managing deer and elk. It seems to be your main management plan. I am wondering your rationale there?

Aoude- When we recommended this, we did not recommend shortening the season on the muzzleloader and the archery hunt because their harvest is really not high enough to affect the number of bucks harvested. We did recommend shortening the season on the center rifle hunt but having a delayed opener which is a different scheme than we usually have. The rationale behind that is that data shows the majority of bucks are taken during that opener. This would leave fewer hunters with an unpunched tag to be able to hunt those units once they open. Also making it a mid-week opener reduces harvest as well. That was our initial recommendation but when we recommended it last year, the board felt that if the rifle hunters were going to take a hit, so we just shortened seasons to make it fair. The real brunt of the harvest is going to take place during the rifle hunt and we have a delayed starter on that to make a difference.

Otherwise, it would really make no difference.

Gaskill- Will youth over-the-counter deer archery permit affect the overall cap?

Aoude- No, that is in addition to the cap.

Public Questions

Wayne Burrows(?)- Hunts for muzzleloader deer and center rifle elk are a week later than they were this year. Is there a reason for that?

Aoude- Everything revolves around the general season deer hunt which is usually the third Saturday in October. Basically, as the calendar moves, the hunt can be as much as a week of from one year to the next. This is the year where it resets and it will start working itself back every year. You are a day later every year.

RAC Questions

Cowley- Late archery season around the south slope of the Uintah. You made a statement that those elk weren't available earlier during the regular hunt for the youth. I am just trying to understand that statement.

Aoude- No, just on that specific unit, they are on private land during that early hunt.

Cowley- So they are coming off private land?

Aoude- Yes, they are coming off private land where the youth can actually harvest them.

Public Input

Alan Jensen- Utah Bowmen Association- Support DWR proposal to go back to archers not having to choose a region.

Tye Boulter- Bow hunters of Utah & Statewide Deer Committee- Support amendment being proposed.

Rich Garrett- Concerned about early start of the archery elk season. Utah has the earliest start date for archery season. It is hot and you run the risk of spoilage if you get an animal far back in. Because school has not started yet, you have competition from everybody who wants to be up there but the archers are the only ones who have to compete with the general public. It would be nice to have that pushed back after school starts.

Al Ladeau- Buck bulls on north slope. It has been 3 seasons since this hunt has been instituted. After the 2nd of 3rd day of the elk season, it becomes a deer hunt for a select few. This puts another deer hunt before the general deer season.

Byron Bateman-Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife- Support 5 day deer rifle hunt in southern and southeast regions for hunters 18 years and over and 9 day for youth 17 and younger.

RAC Question

Cowley- You heard Byron's comment and that has been brought forward on the southeast and southern region. I am wondering if the division can respond to that.

Aoude- My only response would be that shortening the season does not reduce buck harvest unless you manipulate it somehow as we have on those units that are below objective. It might make the people in those regions feel better if they have a 5 day season but they are not reducing harvest.

Cowley- Because most of the harvest occurs the first couple days of the season?

Aoude- All data comparing the same units over time, the number of bucks harvested per thousand hunters does not go down by reducing. The reason for that is that most people hunt,

on average, 3 ½-4 days. If you limit them to 5, you are not limiting them enough to reduce harvest. You would have to have a 2 day hunt to really reduce the number of bucks.

Cowley- They would not go up either if the harvest is lengthened.

Aoude- No, the harvest won't go up, it will just limit peoples opportunity.

Gaskill- I am wondering in the south and southeastern region, did they suggest the season open the same day or that the 5 day would start 4 days later.

Aoude- No, they elected to open the same day. Even opening it 4 days later would not make a difference because the whole region is opening the same time.

Gaskill- I was just not clear about what to do.

Aoude- They recommended starting the same, on the 23rd.

Gaskill- Which is exactly what you said in your presentation earlier and had little to no effect.

Aoude- Correct. Limiting the number of days hunted will work if you are actually limiting the number of days hunted.

Byrnes- I think part of the reason they are asking for 5 days is because we do have a lot of opportunity but we are not increasing our quality. A lot of the public wants better quality of deer hunting. We may have to change our approach in the future. We are setting a proclamation right now and we do not even have the data for this year yet. Hopefully we can get better information and take this one year lag out of setting the proclamation and having the data for the year.

Gaskill- Do you have any data that indicates what percentage of the hunters in the south and southeast regions are from the south and southeast regions versus the rest of the state?

Aoude- We do have that data but I do not know it off the top of my head.

Gaskill- Are the majority of the hunters in the southern and southeast region from those regions or are they coming from the Wasatch front?

Aoude- There are not enough hunters in the southern region to fill all the tags in the southern region so there are some coming from other regions. I don't know the percentages.

Gaskill- I am trying to address the fact that they think they own that land but we own it as well.

Aoude- Sure.

RAC Comment

Van Tassell- Manage deer more for some trophy animals. I have spoken with hunters who would not care if they hunted every year if when they did hunt, they could harvest a better quality animal. Maybe we could have areas where the general hunts are with spikes and 2 points and then have limited entry for 3 and 4 points. Maybe have the youth have areas where they can hunt doe.

Gaskill- Could you talk a little bit about point restrictions What are your feelings on the success?

Aoude- We analyzed data and looked at it really did not reduce harvest nor did it increase buck to doe ratio. All it did was delay the harvest of yearlings one year. It actually put more pressure on older age class bucks because you did not reduce the number of permits. Point restrictions do not work unless you can limit the number of permits. Almost every state in the west has tried it and dropped it.

RAC Question

Cowley- On the units currently below the buck to doe ratio, what is the solution that the state is recommending?

Aoude- We are recommending a 5 day rifle hunt that is delayed from the general regular season opener. The general season opens, but those units are closed.

Cowley- So you just said that shortening the season does not change the harvest.

Aoude- If they all start at the same time. By delaying it, the general season guys go out and cannot hunt those units on the opener. A lot of people harvest their animal during the opener. There are a lot fewer potential unfilled tags that can go on those units when they do open.

Leonard- Considering the SFW proposal for the 5 day hunt with the 9 day youth, do you have an opinion or comment on that from the division?

Aoude- My opinion would be that it is not going to reduce harvest so why limit opportunity if it will not have the result that is needed. The division's recommendation is to have a 9 day hunt because 9 or 5 days will not reduce harvest.

Leonard- Based on several comments, one of the problems with the 5 day hunt is limitations for youth on weekends and this was to overcome that problem. We are still having a lot of public comment that they prefer the 5 day hunt.

Aoude- Some prefer the 5 day hunt. I don't think that we are getting a big enough cross section of the public to say that. We have a group recommending that. That is not the cross section of the public. When we surveyed the public, people wanted to hunt as long as possible.

Slater- A cross section of the public would say "we would like to see opportunity vs. trophy"?

Aoude- Correct.

Motion

Motion: Gaskill- Approve the DWR proposal as presented.

Second: Cavitt

Discussion on the Motion

Selman- I have no data but I like that 5 day hunt personally. I like what Anis says on the northern region about backing off on Cache, Ogden and others and the hunters go somewhere else and either get one or get tired and that preserves bucks. I still wonder if a 5 day hunt statewide would be something that would help our deer. Anis disagrees with that and I support his expertise and knowledge on this.

Motion Passes: For: 9 Against: 2

Item 6. Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Question

Cowley- I am wondering why we just don't put 40% or higher instead of putting a range. What does the range buy us?

Aoude- If the range goes above 55 we can increase permits.

Cowley- In your presentation, you say that the reduction in permits would be socially unacceptable. Who determined that would be socially unacceptable?

Aoude- The social aspect of this is that people want that unit managed for trophy bucks and it is currently producing trophy bucks. You are reducing permits when you do not need to.

Byrnes- But ultimately, the public would determine if that was socially acceptable.

Aoude- Exactly, which is why we had a committee to look at that and that committee socially passed it 10 to 1.

Motion

Motion: Cowley- Approve the DWR proposal as presented.

Second: Gaskill

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 7. CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment

Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Nathan Dabb- Specific to Bastian Ranch, what boundaries did they ask to change?

Blackwell- I'm going to ask the region to answer that question.

McFarlane- The only change they had was they added some property on the north end of the CWMU. It was just an addition to some property.

RAC Questions

Byrnes- Split recommendation on the Alton. They are requesting something but you are not in favor of it?

Blackwell- It is a new management buck program that we are not set up for CWMU's to provide them with these permits. It would take a new draw. We want to see how the program goes. We want to take a look at it and let it go another year or two and go from there.

Byrnes- If they were to receive the permits that they asked for, you don't actually have a formula set up to allocate those permits. Would their total be less than they would normally receive?

Blackwell- No.

Slater- They are shifting the reduction?

Blackwell- They took the 10% reduction and then take a sum for management bucks. The CWMU's still have the opportunity to take their private permits that they receive and use them

as management buck permits if they wish. We feel that opportunity is still there for the Alton CWMU.

Van Tassell- On the CWMU units, how do you determine private vs. public?

Blackwell- That is a formula that they can either choose a percentage split. They will sit down with a biologist and figure out a total number of permits and then decide which percentage would go public and which percentage would be private. Then, that decision will affect the antlerless permits next year. If they choose a 90/10 split, the CWMU gets zero antlerless permits and the public gets 100% of the permits. That way we try and even it out as much as we can.

RAC Comments

Neville and Selman Recues themselves from the vote.

Motion

Motion: Byrnes- Accept the Divisions presentation and their recommendation on the Alton permits numbers.

Second: Leonard

Discussion on the Motion

Cowley- Does that include that we accept the division's direction on the one where there is a split decision?

Byrnes- As part of my motion, I would include that we accept the divisions recommendation on the Alton permits.

Motion Passes: For: 9 Recues: 2

Landowner Permit Numbers

See Handout

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Does the division ever grant those kinds of variances that they are requesting?

Blackwell- Yes, but there is a process they need to go through. They will meet with the region and go over habitat improvements, animal use and depredation issues. Then, it comes in and can only be approved by the regional supervisor and section chief for additional permits. At this time, those landowner associations do not qualify and have not requested through the proper procedures.

Gaskill- If it is against the rules, why are they even asking. So there is a process?

Blackwell- There is a process available to them and we have 2 landowner associations that have gone through that process.

Gaskill- But these have not.

Blackwell- Correct.

Hodson- It is more than just a process. It has to do with the fact that if they have done habitat improvements and that kind of thing. It is not just a procedural thing.

Motion

Motion: Lawrence- Move to approve the DWR proposal.

Second: Wall

Discussion on the Motion

Cowley- What you are suggesting is that we accept the division's recommendations of these permit numbers.

Lawrence- Correct.

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Rule Amendment

See Handout

Public Question

Steve Gaskill- How do they decide how to distribute the voucher? Do they give it to one of their members?

Blackwell- They would take that permit and somebody would approach them. It would not be used to raise money but to provide an opportunity for example for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Gaskill- So that is where sub-section D comes in. So, would sub-section D be a limitation on the 501-C-3?

Blackwell- Yes.

Gaskill- They would have to use it for a charitable cause?

Blackwell- Yes.

Dave Miller- If the CWMU has an unfilled tag, they would be able to get a tax write off for donating their permit to a charity?

Blackwell- That is possible. They have the opportunity at any time to give a tag out. This just allows them to carry it over if it has not been used.

Dave Miller- Why would you allow a private landowner to do that and not the general public? If I am a deer hunter and do not fill my tag, I cannot donate it to someone and get a tax break for my tag.

Blackwell- No, you can't.

RAC Questions

Cowley- I don't think the question was answered.

Blackwell- I don't have an answer.

Lawrence- Is this a tag that was not issued to an individual already?

Blackwell- Correct.

Lawrence- The public tag has already been issued to an individual. This is a tag that is not issued.

Slater- It is just a voucher to get a tag is that correct?

Blackwell- Yes.

Slater- Does that answer your question?

Dave Miller- It's not a tag it's a voucher?

Slater- It is a voucher and the tag has not been issued. That would be one of the key differences.

Dave Miller- Seems like the same thing to me.

Cowley- So no one was given the opportunity to actually hunt under that tag.

Blackwell- Correct.

Lawrence- You might want to explain that difference. The division does not issue those CWMU tags, they issue vouchers.

Blackwell- The CWMU does not get a tag, they get a voucher and that voucher they can sell to somebody in the public. It is not worth anything until they sell it. Whereas the public draws a permit and they have the opportunity to access those and they can hunt with that permit. The voucher can be used or not used.

Casey Butcher- Whoever sees those vouchers has to still go and pay the price for that tag, am I correct on that?

Blackwell- Yes.

Casey Butcher- So how is the landowner getting a tax write off when the state is not receiving any money for the cost of that tag? That does not make sense to me.

Byrnes- Maybe they should understand that all vouchers when redeemed for a tag, have to be paid for no matter what.

Blackwell- Correct. They have to come in with the voucher, redeem the voucher for the price of the tag and then it becomes a permit.

Byrnes- Any time the voucher becomes a permit, we always receive our money for it?

Blackwell- Right.

Byrnes- On the dates, that would be the year the original voucher is issued. Is that correct?

Blackwell- Correct.

Byrnes- Have you thought about a clause if the CWMU does not exist in the year that that voucher might be redeemed?

Blackwell- Then it would not be able to be used. I guess that is one of the reasons that we put by January 31st on there. That CWMU would be tied to letting that person hunt on to that property.

Byrnes- So that CWMU is guaranteed to exist in the next year if this happens by January 31st?

Blackwell- Yes.

Byrnes- What if it happens earlier in the year before the CWMU comes in to make their application for the next year? Let's say the CWMU was dissolved and then this voucher has been donated to a charitable organization for a hunt on a CWMU that no longer exists?

Blackwell- I would presume that voucher would be null and void at that point. If there is no CWMU there the voucher would be no good either. Therefore, no money goes anywhere. They have not bought the voucher or paid for the voucher because they are not allowed to make money off of it.

Gaskill- Does the landowner decide what 501-C-3 they want it donated to?

Blackwell- What we envision here would be somebody that is a charitable cause would approach the 501-C-3 and ask them to take the permit or get the voucher and to work that out for them.

Gaskill- If I am an organization that teaches young girls how to play the guitar, I happen to know that there is such a 501-C-3.

Blackwell- There could be.

Gaskill- There is. So, if I go to a CWMU and say "I have got a girl that I am teaching to play the guitar and she wants to hunt deer" and you say "ok, that is fine". It seems to me there is an awful lot of opportunity here for non-wildlife related charitable causes and non-wildlife related 501-C-3's. I think there are a lot of problems with this whole operation.

Blackwell- There was one recommendation made in the southeast region that stated that this charitable cause must be approved by the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Gaskill- I would think that maybe it ought to be a charitable cause that is related to wildlife.

Blackwell- That is your opinion and I will provide mine. I think that there are a lot of other causes out there besides wildlife that could benefit from this opportunity. For example, we have someone who has never had the opportunity to hunt and they have a terminal illness. We would love to be able to provide them with that opportunity. We would certainly like to have more for doing habitat projects and those kinds of things.

Gaskill- That is wildlife related charitable cause if you are giving it to someone who wants to hunt but that does not limit it to someone who wants to hunt.

Blackwell- That's right.

Gaskill- It is pretty wide open.

Blackwell- Yes, it is at this point.

Byrnes- I am just wondering why they would want the permit if they don't want to hunt?

Gaskill- Maybe their father wants to hunt, I can conjure up a whole bunch of situations. To me this is really a problematic proposal.

Neville- During the year that CWMU's have the vouchers, can they auction off anything they want?

Blackwell- Yes.

Neville- So this just extends that for a year and only goes to one permit?

Blackwell- Yes.

Selman- I am just thinking that an extra voucher that was not used, no one made any money off it. If I want to give that to someone next year, then the state will get \$45 dollars out of it. So who loses? It is one that was not used. I do not see a problem at all with this. I know for a fact that the make a wish cannot sponsor hunts.

Leonard- There is not a lot of opportunity for this, it is an occasional thing that comes up. The CWMU wants to make the money off the tags. It is very rare that this comes up.

Blackwell- That is partially correct. We have only had one request of this nature in the last 2 years.

Gaskill- If the landowner gives the voucher to someone, does that mean that the CWMU then will not charge them to hunt.

Blackwell- Correct.

Gaskill- That is implied in giving the voucher?

Blackwell- That is correct.

Gaskill- If the CWMU gives a voucher, they have given a free hunt?

Blackwell- That is something you may want to add in there if you feel comfortable.

Gaskill- I probably would if it is not in there already.

Blackwell- When the CWMU provides permits, they provide an opportunity to hunt.

Gaskill- And there are no charges over and above that?

Blackwell- We have some that guide and some that don't guide. We have some that say we will sell this voucher for \$5,000-\$8,000 dollars. What they are doing is giving a voucher and we would expect that to not cost the person who is using it.

Gaskill- If they were then to say "we have given the voucher and typically when we have given this voucher, it has a value because we charge \$5,000-\$8,000 dollars", they would then have the opportunity to ask the IRS to accept that as a tax write off?

Blackwell- I don't know much about tax law. I will pass on the opportunity to answer that. A lot of CWMU's have done this anyways on their own during the year. They have taken someone during that year and they want to do these kinds of things. When I discussed this with The CWMU Association, they were all for this kind of an opportunity so we continued to do it.

Gaskill- So this rule lets them do it next year instead of this year.

Blackwell- Correct, one voucher.

Public Question

Dave Miller- Who is paying to redeem the voucher?

Blackwell- It would be the charity that is paying to redeem the voucher.

Dave Miller- So the landowner is getting a tax write off when he has not paid anything in?

Blackwell- He is getting a piece of paper that allows someone to hunt. What he charges for that, I don't know.

Dave Miller- Whether he is charging \$1 dollar or \$1,000 dollars, he is still getting a dollar when he did not pay anything.

Slater- That is good input but is probably an IRS question that we probably do not know the answer to.

Cowley- I think the cost that the landowner is undergoing is feeding a herd of animals on that CWMU throughout that year or part of the year. So, they are probably getting a return through a tax write off in that but they are also providing feed for a number of other animals on that private land. It is allowing the public to hunt on private land.

Dave Miller- I really think that it should be given to the public how much they are going to be allowed to deduct on their taxes before it is decided whether they are allowed to do it then.

RAC Comment

Neville- As a CWMU operator that has donated tags, it is not worth the paperwork to try to write it off.

Selman- I have donated some as well and I am starting to think I have missed out on something.

Neville and Selman recues themselves from this motion.

Motion

Motion: Byrnes- Approve the changes to the rule as presented to include Subsection F to read: The Division must be notified in writing and the approved by the director and the donation completed before January 31st of the year the CWMU voucher is to be redeemed.

Second: Cavitt

Discussion on the motion

Leonard- Add clarification that this is subject to the director of the Division of Wildlife Resources approval.

Slater- Can you bring that rule back up? I thought there was a provision.

Cavitt- It may be implied but I do not think it was stated.

Blackwell- It might be a good idea to add in there that it would be approved by the Wildlife Board.

Leonard- I thought that was the original reason we wanted a ruling so that the Wildlife Board would not have to continuously have to deal with these requests.

Blackwell- This gives it direction and guidelines. All of our permits have to go through the Wildlife Board approval. This would be another one where we would take care of this in April when we do our antlerless permits. The board would either say yes or no.

Motion Passes: For: 8 Abstain: 1 Recues: 2

Item 8. Moose Management Plan

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Dave Houguard- About 15 years ago, the hunting magazines said Utah was a trophy moose destination. I noticed on your harvest ages, you don't go back very far. Has our age class dropped drastically as we have increased the number of permits or what is the explanation? My question really has to do with the definition of quality.

Aoude- What limits what size of moose out there is many things. One is what the forge looks like that year. 15 years ago, we use to have a lot wetter cycle. Right now, resources are limited for moose. We either need to bring them back down or improve habitat. Ages have not changed that much from back then. The perception has changed more than anything else.

Travis Hobbs- When do the people get to decide whether we should be flying moose off the Cache unit and supplying us with bighorn sheep we are trading for. When do the people get to vote on when or if that takes place?

Aoude- We have not taken any animals off the Cache unit. We have taken them off of the Ogden unit which is a unit that is overpopulated. We do the surveys and can tell when the units are overpopulated. We are best equipped to say when things need to be either shot or moved somewhere else.

Travis Hobbs- The helicopter at rendezvous beach 2 years ago when they told me that was what they were doing, that is not what they were doing?

Aoude- We have not moved moose off the Cache.

Hodson- If you talked to some guys at Rendezvous Beach, it is probably the same contractor that was there doing the moose transplant out of the Ogden unit but they were up there collaring some deer. There was probably some miscommunication there.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Age does not necessarily mean antler size? There is a correlation but there is not necessarily a correlation.

Aoude- Not always. Once a bull gets to be 5 years old, he gets to be a pretty big bull. On average, anything older than that will not get much bigger.

Gaskill- What I got from your comment was that we have not changed significantly in the age classification.

Aoude- Right, the harvest age, no it has not.

Gaskill- But you also think we are not changing in antler size because we are. The perception is that we are.

Aoude- The perception is that we are but the data does not show that we are all that much.

There is a very slight change. The significance is hard to tell. The perception may be right but there are fewer but the harvest shows that it has not changed all that much.

Gaskill- And you do measure and check every bull.

Aoude- No, the harvest survey asks the hunter to do so.

Gaskill- So you are relying on their tape measure.

Aoude- If it's going to be consistently high or consistently low. It has always been that way.

Gaskill- No reason to assume they are bigger liars than last year.

Aoude- Exactly.

Cowley- We have the map in the plan that lists it as quality habitat. In the deer and elk plans, we use the term crucial habitat. Could you explain the difference between the two.

Aoude- We do have those classifications as well as far as different type ranges. What we are trying to lineate there is where we could support large populations of moose or we could not. The other stuff is marginal habitat. We could probably support moose on some years. It was not specifying crucial habitat.

Cowley- Who will be involved in developing the unit plans.

Aoude- Regional endeavor. They can choose to get whatever help they need to get those plans in place. It will be up to the individual regions.

Cowley- Do you see the private landowners and public land managers involved in those discussions.

Aoude- That would be preferred. We have not put those restrictions on but that would be the preferred option.

Public Comment

Lewis Barker- Moose and antler size. Since hunters always want to shoot the ones with the biggest rack, perhaps there is the idea of selection. Maybe the breeders become the bulls that don't produce the big racks.

RAC Comment

Gaskill- I did get an email from Logan and he/she thinks that there is a greatly reduced number of elk with big racks.

Lawrence- I like the habitat component in there. Having observed moose for a lot of years on some of the family property, these mid-elevation and high south slopes have a lot of this mountain mahogany on it. How do you get mahogany re-established? There is not a lot of research on that. I encourage the division to maybe pioneer that and see how we can get some of those plants that are extremely important to moose in the winter established again.

Aoude- I agree. That is a big component of the moose winter range is those mahogany. That is tough because mahogany is hard to get young established.

Lawrence- Not a lot of research has been done.

Aoude- Scott Walker has done some research on that and he probably would be the one who would be best to answer that and hopefully get some new studies.

Gates- Encourage the agency biologist be involved in those more local unit plans.

Aoude- I urge you to get input from the land management agencies and private landowners.

Cowley- It seems we are doing a lot of trading of moose with other states which is a great opportunity. I am wondering at what point is that maximized or we open up additional hunting opportunity for the people of Utah?

Aoude- We don't do trades with other states. We provide animals if we have surplus and they may provide us with animals if they have surplus. Most of the animals that went to Colorado were female moose so it did not decrease the bull harvest opportunity for the local hunters. We could have increased cow permits. A lot of those cows were not in places where the public could have hunted them.

Motion

Motion: Neville- Move to accept the DWR's proposal as presented.

Second: Leonard

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Slater- Going back to an earlier question on how the public gets a chance to vote on things. This is the start of that process where information goes out, discussions are had, input is received and we are quite a ways out from what happens on this item. The public votes by providing their input through this process, by adding input to the Wildlife Board and by working with the DWR who craft these proposals and fine tune things over the years. Other states and wildlife management may do things different but Utah is more open to the public than others in the intermountain west.

Aoude- I would like all of you who have comments please do so and not be intimidated. We will gather comment on our website and maybe even with a formal survey. Hopefully, we will come back with another proposal including all comments before it comes up as a recommendation for 2011.

Item 9. 2011 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Hunt Structure

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Jerry Woodland- You mentioned that you had a concern about hunting deer with a rifle during the rut.

Aoude- With any weapon during the rut.

Jerry Woodland- Is that not a concern with elk during the rut?

Aoude- No, because those are limited entry permits and when you limit permits you can control the number of animals taken. During general season, you have a lot of permits out there and you kind of know what the success rate is going to be based on those seasons.

Tracy Zundel- You said limited entry hunts for muzzleloader would run concurrent with the muzzleloader hunt. Is that all muzzleloader limited entry hunts?

Aoude- I don't understand the question? Can you rephrase that please?

Tracy Zundel- In your presentation, limited entry muzzleloader deer hunt would run the same time as the general?

Aoude- Right.

Tracy Zundel- Does that include the Crawford Mountain Range?

Aoude- That one would probably have to be an exception because that is the only unit that has a general season and a separate season. That would probably remain a late hunt.

Redd Armfield(?)- You want to put a muzzleloader hunt in between 2 rifle hunts. That eludes me.

Aoude- I guess the answer is yes.

Redd Armfield- It is hard enough to hunt black powder as it is. I know rifles are getting better and better but you are going to spook all the animals and then send us out there to try and it just does not sit right with me.

Mike Laughter- I did not quite get why we moved it out of September.

Aoude- Moved what?

Mike Laughter- Muzzleloader deer, general season.

Aoude- If it is in September, a lot of those deer units are also limited entry elk units. It is currently happening that the muzzleloader deer season hunters are on limited entry elk hunters at the same time. This would remove them from overlapping with limited entry elk hunters.

Mike Laughter- So, because of changes to limited entry muzzle loading, that affects general season muzzle loading.

Aoude- Yes, for elk.

Josh Bell- If you are doing this to limit the amount of people that are in the field at one time, having half the elk hunters and half the deer hunters, how is that going to change the number of people out?

Aoude- There are a lot fewer elk hunters than there are deer hunters. This would limit it even more because there could be one person that has 2 tags.

Josh Bell- Why not do the muzzleloader first and have the 2 rifles back to back?

Aoude- That is certainly an option we would consider.

Becky Byington- So basically, you are wanting to shorten the general season elk hunt? Because it is only a 25% success rate.

Aoude- Most general season elk hunters don't hunt 9 days. So even though we are shortening it, there is still plenty of opportunity to hunt. I do not think it will reduce success rate.

Kevin Labrum- How many days of archery hunt will overlap with the rut vs. how many days muzzleloader will overlap with the hunt vs. how many rifle hunters days will overlap with the rut?

Aoude- Almost everybody overlaps with the rut.

Wayne Burrows- You mentioned that there may be an application fee for elk.

Aoude- Correct.

Wayne Burrows- If you are going to split the deer in two parts, would there even be a possibility of doing applications so that your odds are better of getting your deer tag at the same time if you drew for both?

Aoude- Yes, those are all options we are looking into as far as how we would do it. We want to make it easy to apply for both.

Rich Garrett- By your own admission, the general season archery guys, we don't have the opportunity to hunt the rut at all.

Aoude- Actually, you get pretty close to the rut.

Rich Garrett- No, there is a lot of difference between close and being in the rut.

Aoude- Exactly.

Rich Garrett- And I know a lot of teenagers who have been close. I am a military guy and close only counts in hand grenades and nuclear weapons.

Aoude- Actually, you go right to the 19th.

Rich Garrett- No, that is limited entry. General season you are saying you are going to knock off a week earlier so the limited entry guys can have it.

Aoude- For the spike hunt, not the annual bull hunt.

Rich Garrett- That's right.

Aoude- You don't want to hunt spikes during the rut because they are usually hiding in the deepest, darkest hole.

Rich Garrett- How many years have you archery hunted?

Aoude- Every one of them.

Rich Garrett- How many? I have hunted for over 40 years and I am telling you that I love to hunt spikes during the rut. There is advantages to hunting the rut, even cows.

Aoude- For cows certainly.

Rich Garrett- You are excluding the general season hunter, unless you put in for that pricey limited entry archery tag, you are excluded from hunting the rut with archery. I don't think that is fair.

Kevin Bryant- Looking at that chart, I am just curious as to why are you favoring the muzzleloader hunters over the rifle hunters? Why couldn't you reverse the rifle and muzzleloader?

Aoude- It is a primitive weapon so their success rate is going to be decreased. To make it more fair, you would put them first.

Kevin Bryant- The problem is that a lot of people have spent a lot of years with a lot of points to draw that premium time and I think you have diminished that a little bit by allowing the muzzleloaders in there.

Aoude- But this is still in the rut, so I don't think it is diminishing it that much.

Kevin Bryant- It is something to think about. I think the muzzleloaders still benefit if you reverse that.

Aoude- It would be as it is now basically. That is a good comment.

Dave Houguard- Lifetime license holders. If you did a combination deer and elk as a lifetime license holder since they are guaranteed a deer tag, they come out first but does that also guarantee them an elk tag?

Aoude- No, the two permits are separate. You would have to apply for them separately.

Dylan Floyd(?)- Dedicated hunter program. Are they going to have to pick one of the two rifle seasons?

Aoude- Likely that is what will happen. We are still gathering comment on that. Most of the comment is towards them picking one rifle season.

Dylan Floyd(?)- Would there be the possibility of splitting that up because one of those seasons will most likely be more desired.

Aoude- Yes, we are looking into a lot of that stuff. That is still in the conversation stage as well.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Do we really need to do anything? Is it an option to not make any changes?

Aoude- Certainly.

Cowley- Why does the state want to increase administrative costs and hunting regulation complexity?

Aoude- The reason for that is to reduce crowding, increase opportunity and provide more diverse hunting opportunities.

Byrnes- Do you have any feel for how this hunt structure will affect hunter success?

Aoude- Every change we have made seems to initially have an impact but hunt success returns. I don't think it will change hunter success all that much.

Byrnes- So you said that hunter success may go down?

Aoude- It may go down if people do not know how to hunt those specific units unless you hunt the same time you always did.

Byrnes- Since we are going to have additional seasons, aren't we going to have additional first weekend dates?

Aoude- No, because there will be half the pressure.

Byrnes- But you still have another opening weekend, they are not competing with a lot of other people to take those animals.

Aoude- Yes, but you have half the people out there. It is not the same number of people going to the second opener. You are diminishing success in half.

Byrnes- I think you should look at how competition affects the success of the hunter also.

Aoude- That could very well be the case and there are ways of dealing with that under this hunt structure.

Gaskill- We got the results of a pretty exhausted survey. Could you refresh my memory about the concerns that were brought out in that survey last year? Were the hunters dissatisfied with the current process and what were the basic concerns?

Aoude- They we're not greatly dissatisfied. Most people like the status quo. They did not want a lot of change but we were asked by the Wildlife Board to come up with some options to provide more opportunity that would not be detrimental to the wildlife.

Gaskill- Is there any thought to a survey regarding these proposals?

Aoude- Certainly and I think I mentioned that earlier that we are thinking about doing a formal survey specifically dealing with these hunt structures.

Public Comment

Travis Hobbs- Muzzleloader hunt between the two rifle hunts. I am an archery guy first but I think if we put that archery hunt between two rifle deer, you could not keep the people out of here. I can't even see why you would want that tag. I am concerned about putting solid pressure on deer for almost two solid months. Everyone is going to want to be by themselves but I think success rate will skyrocket with less people in the field. Hate to see more pressure, especially in Northern Utah on the Cache. Cut number of tags in half for starters.

Becky Byington- Feel like they are trying to make just the deer hunters happy and ignoring elk hunters. How will that help the people elk hunting? I will take my kids hunting in Idaho because it is cheaper, less people and more opportunity. That way, I do not have to worry about my kids being shot or shooting someone because there are so many people out there. I will not take them elk hunting here either if there are that many elk hunters. I think it is a really bad idea.

Mike Laughter- Mule Deer Foundation- Agree with Travis Hobbs. Is general season deer rifle 9 days as well?

Aoude- Yes.

Mike Laughter- Travis made the comment about how much space was between. If you have roughly 30 days in October, we are looking at maybe a day between. We have been asking as sportsmen in the Northern region for reduction in tags for the last 2 years. To increase the general season rifle hunt by 9 more days would be tough to support. We are selling out to the limited entry crowd for those who hunt general season muzzleloader. Because they overlap with limited entry, we are going to move them out of September and put them in an awkward spot to hunt between two general season rifle tags.

Casey Butcher- I am against these changes. It shortens the season for elk, make too many hunters available to hunt deer during elk, moves muzzleloader deer and elk directly after a rifle hunt. Shortens moose from 32 day to 18 days. I would rather see fewer tags to reduce hunter pressure.

Spencer Gibbons- Utah Farm Bureau- When considering dates for the hunts, please consider the latter part of October to allow the cattlemen to get cows off the forest. This may reduce hunter/rancher conflicts.

Steve Gaskill- Opposed to the proposal. I see no compelling reason to change the current structure.

Don McComb- Concerned with moving the muzzleloader hunt. Will put too much pressure on deer herds. Do not agree with changes.

Dave Houguard- Addressed the RAC in 2006 after muzzleloader hunt with my sons. In order to take your children of school age hunting, you have to sluff school. Now you are proposing that every deer hunt, except archery, will open during the week. That is a fault with the muzzleloader hunt and all 3 deer hunts that are proposed for October in the future plan.

Suggest moving muzzleloader hunt to start the second to the last weekend of the archery hunt and hunt muzzleloader deer concurrently with the archery hunters through that last weekend of the archery hunt.

Brad Kelly- Against the proposal to change the any weapon season. Majority of hunters are any weapon. Don't take away the majority opportunities on this hunt that people have been waiting years to draw. Special interest groups are always trying to take away the rights from the majority. The percentages are taken from the best elk unit in the state. The majority of hunters should get the best dates, anyone can become part of the majority. These tags are basically once in a lifetime tags. Percentages are based on total number of applications divided by each group of hunters.

Tim Semadeni- Opposed to splitting rifle hunt. Concerns with 18 day time frame rifle deer hunt. Against elk and deer hunt at the same time. This will increase number of hunters in field. Keep muzzleloader deer hunt in September, not between two rifle hunts.

Jerry Woodland- Archery season too short, too early. Least desirable archery season of all western states.

Mike Dent- Reducing elk would not significantly increase deer because elk are not currently limiting deer. Other significant factors limit deer and should be focused on.

Tracy Zundel- Muzzleloader hunt immediately following a rifle hunt will greatly reduce the chances of getting a deer. Crawford Mountain limited entry buck hunt need to stay at the current dates. There are no deer there in October.

Tod Spendlove- Move the elk to a rut hunt for archery.

Tye Boulter- Like to see the muzzleloader elk get more time alone by pushing the rifle back a few days. Montana does not acknowledge muzzleloader hunts. I would like to see that considered.

Brad Buchanan- Like changes on limited entry elk. Feel muzzleloader hunters are getting the short end of the stick. Run muzzleloader deer and limited entry muzzleloader elk at the same time like we do now. Extend time moose hunters have.

RAC Comment

Gaskill- I have experience with limited entry elk, muzzleloader elk and muzzleloader deer at the same time. It was not a problem. If you put the elk hunters and deer hunters on the La Sal, you will greatly increase the number of hunters. Maybe we need to look at some specific areas.

Selman- Liked Spencer's comments about livestock. Lack of deer causing overcrowding issue.

Van Tassell- Email received regarding the first part of hunt being primitive and then moving to an inline.

Byrnes- We could probably increase opportunity to hunt deer a lot. Without quality, satisfaction is not going to increase. We bring our cows off at the first of October just so we can avoid elk hunters on the La Sal. We could stay until the 15th but we want to get off the mountain and we definitely don't want to be there when the deer hunters are out there.

Leonard- In the 2 years being on the RAC, this particular proposal has stirred up more interest and awakened more sportsmen than any other cumulative issue brought before the RAC. We will get some good ideas out of it. Commend the division for thinking outside the box. We will come up with a good and adequate plan. Will not please everyone but it will work. Need to protect deer resources.

Slater- This was brought forward as an informational item at request by the Wildlife Board?

Aoude- Yes.

Slater- Based on some emails and other comments, there is misconception that this is set in stone. That is not the case right?

Aoude- Correct.

Slater- After this informational process, what will be the next step?

Aoude- To take some of this and put together a modified version of this. We still want to put out a survey to get a more broad input to make a more informed decision. It will then be brought back to the RAC as an informational again. This is a way to get input. If the majority does not want change, I don't think it will change. The final decision is made by the Wildlife Board.

Item 10. Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Action Log Item)

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Byrnes- Are you going to try and incorporate it into a model or use your data for the habitat in the state to get the data out on areas where you do not have any data at all?

Aoude- As far as extrapolating the data?

Byrnes- In the end once you get a little more information.

Aoude- We should have enough data to cover the entire state so we shouldn't need to extrapolate. On roads that we have good data, we would be able to use that data on other roads that are similar.

Byrnes- There are definitely some holes in the southeast and southern areas.

Aoude- This is the first year we have attempted this. Hopefully, in the future, the information will get better as we start implementing this more and more.

Neville- Is this data available? Would this be online or is there a written report.

Aoude- No there is not. This was just done as a presentation to present the data. We could make it available.

Neville- Even those maps would be great to have.

Aoude- We could try and post those online. They are always changing so it is hard to put something online that is always changing.

Public Comment

Travis Hobbs- I see a lot of deer in Logan canyon and many deer being hit. Is there any pressure on the state of Utah to write a ticket or something or anyway you guys could look into that.

Aoude- The Division of Wildlife Resources does not have a lot of leverage to put pressure on many other state entities so all we can do is recommend.

Sydney Hobbs- Drive through the canyon twice a day. No one ever speaks of hitting deer in driver's education. People just don't think while driving through a canyon, especially younger kids. People don't realize how many deer are killed every year.

Aoude- That is a great comment.

Gaskill- The education aspect is something that is pretty important.

Slater- I will need to check on curriculum for new drivers but I know on the defensive driver classes and mature driver classes, animal collision avoidance is a specific topic.

Selman- Insurance money for vehicle damages prior to vehicle damage. Preventative work with that money.

Aoude- We have to be creative when it comes to that because funding is probably the biggest obstacle when it comes to getting animals across safely.

Slater- If we do issue a citation, does someone who has struck a deer, would that be taking a deer out of season?

Aoude- I would have to ask our law enforcement.

Selman- There's some money, get them on a poach.

Item 11. Election of Officers

Ann Neville, RAC Member and Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

Brad Slater will continue as Chairman.

Vote Passes: Unanimous.

Nominees for Vice-Chairman are Joel Ferry and Robert Byrnes.

RAC members were asked to cast their vote for either Joel Ferry or Robert Byrnes.

Ron Hodson and Ann Neville tallied the votes.

Item 12. Millville Elk Strategic Plan

Randy Wood, Regional Wildlife Program Coordinator

Concerns about doing habitat manipulation in an area where we are feeding elk. In January 2009, the board put together a committee to look at the future and develop a plan for the future of feeding elk. A plan was completed and the goal is to reduce the elks dependent on winter feeding but not increase depredation. Maintain restoration in that area and making a better big game winter range. Will not reduce the current population objective of the Cache unit.

Antlerless hunt strategies. Minimize frequency and timing of feeding. Increase deer wintering on the area. Increase deer winter range. Treat 50-200 acres of critical deer winter range through 2015. Evaluate project and look at impacts on deer and elk. Committee will meet annually to evaluate the progress of the plan and if any modifications need to be made.

RAC Questions

Cavitt- What was the rationale for the feeding program to begin with? Why are they still feeding elk in that area?

Wood- The feeding started back between 1982-1984 winter. It was a bad winter at Cache and they had elk congregate there with some winter loss and the local group just started feeding them. The feeding was not approved by the division. The locals have been feeding every year since the early 80's. We are looking at bringing that into compliance by getting a COR to feed there and be a bit more controlled.

Cavitt- Wildlife management textbooks are filled with horror stories of what happens when we promote these kinds of feeding programs. I think this is not something that is good practice if it continues or is promoted in that way.

Lawrence- When is the brows plants proposed to be planted?

Wood- They have tried spring plantings and are there plans for next year fall or spring?

Debloois- Still want to try to plant in the spring.

Lawrence- If you plant in the spring, then you do not get adequate moisture especially on the south facing slopes.

Public Comment

Travis Hobbs- Concerned about increasing the number of elk tags that are on that crucial winter range during late season hunts.

Wood- What were you looking at?

Travis Hobbs- I was curious as to when?

Debloois- There will be some in December.

Travis Hobbs- Concerned if you get these hunters out there and are talking about increasing the tags, the deer are still there. Those elk do not go very far. Why not offer a hunt for them in that area to the elk that is still there. Opposed to stop feeding the elk.

RAC Comment

Selman- I wonder if we are defeating our purpose with the late season cow elk hunts. I think that maybe they ought to go on foot or have them earlier. A lot of times, we push them off.

Wood- The group is not dead set on anything. They are looking at evaluating it annually and adjust accordingly with area and season dates.

Public Comment

Mike Dent- Have helped feed elk in Millville. When the cow hunts were initially started, the hunting was only allowed below the power lines. Since that time, the hunting area has been extended up higher, cow tags have been increased. I would like to see more of a balance between the landowners and the desires of the sportsmen and the number of elk they are allowed to stay there. I am not sure this is the best way to increase the deer herd.

Item 13. Cache Working Group

Randy Wood, Regional Wildlife Program Coordinator

Formed in 2006 specifically to look at low deer numbers in the Cache unit. Held 2 meetings this past year with very low turnout. Easement on south end of Cache unit is close to being done. Bitter brush planting on Millville with low success. Sage brush had good success in Richmond. Livestock grazing to improve deer winter range. Antler gathering shifted gears to an educational program online. No antlerless tags this year in the Cache unit. OHV restrictions did not pass. DWR continuing to work on habitat projects winter range for deer. Ernie Perkins putting together a subcommittee to deal with habitat projects, easements and possible purchases of winter range.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Where did funding come from for Baxter ridge?

Ernie Perkins- Lee Ray McCallister.

Gaskill- No money came from habitat.

Perkins- No.

Cowley- Has there been any movement on looking at the caring capacity and establishing a realistic caring capacity for that unit?

Wood- For elk?

Cowley- No, for deer.

Wood- No, just what has been done in the past.

Public Comment

Travis Hobbs- I would have loved to have heard about those meetings. I don't know how well they were advertised but you have a lot of concerned guys about the mule deer. They would love to help out and hear about these meetings. Were they advertised?

Wood- I don't know how they first formed the committee. He is shaking his head yes, so they were. If we could get your email address, we could add you in.

Wall- Join any of the conservation groups.

Hobbs- I am a member of the mule deer foundation but they do not send any information.

Results for Northern Region RAC Vice-Chairman

Ron Hodson- Robert Byrnes is the new Vice-Chairman.

Meeting Ends: 10:40 p.m.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY- MOTIONS PASSED
Western Park, Vernal/November 5, 2009

5. 2010 BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL PROPOSALS

MOTION: to accept as presented by Amy to accept DWR dates as presented and recommended; Loran seconds. Floyd would like make amendment that we shorten the entire regional deer hunt by 4 days. Amendment fails due to lack of second.

MOTION: to accept DWR's recommendations

Passed 7 to 1; Floyd opposed

6. STATEWIDE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

MOTION: to accept as presented by Amy to accept as presented; Second by Ron
Passed unanimous

7. CWMU & LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2010 & RULE R657-37
AMENDMENT

MOTION: to accept as presented by Ron Winterton on CWMU portion as per presented; second Amy

Passed unanimous

MOTION: to accept DWR recommendations by Beth; Second Curtis

Passed unanimous

MOTION: to accept as presented, accept the changes to the rule by Amy; Ron second

Passed unanimous

8. MOOST MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: to accept as presented Amy accept as presented; Brandon second

Passed unanimous

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

Western Park, Vernal

November 5, 2009

Started at 6:30 pm; Adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Floyd Briggs- At-Large
Bob Christensen-RAC Chair
B. Curtis Dastrup-Agriculture
Mitch Hacking-Agriculture
Beth Hamann- Non-Consumptive
Loran Hills- Non-Consumptive
Brandon McDonald- BLM
Amy Torres-At Large
Ron Winterton-Elected Official-

RAC MEMBERS UNEXCUSED

Rod Morrison-Sportsmen

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Marcia Keddy
Genevieve Nord
Kevin Christopherson
Ron Stewart
Charlie Greenwood
Clint Sampson
Derrick Ewell
Anis Aoude
Boyde Blackwell
Dax Mangus
Brian Maxfield
Robert Meinrod
Randall Thacker
Torrey Christophersen
Dan Barnhurst

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:

Del Brady
Rick Woodward

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Kirk Woodward-Sportsmen
Carlos Reed- Ute Tribe

1. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Beth motion to approve agenda, Ron second
Unanimously accepted

2. REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Mitch- Mr. Chairman, Ryan Thornock from the Farm Bureau came to me and in the minutes it is states, he stated that Ute Indian Tribe was opposed to the buffalo transplanted to the Book Cliffs. He told me that he did not say that and I don't remember him saying it all either. I'd like to see it may be deleted from the minutes

Amy: What was that?

Mitch: That Ryan said The Ute Indian Tribe was opposed.

Amy: Yeah, He did say that, very clearly.

Mitch: I never did hear him say that.

Bob: Yeah, Actually, I do remember that too Mitch. In fact, I think Amy did respond that to it as well.

Mitch: Ryan is here, can he comment on it

Ryan: Can I comment?

Bob: I think right now, we we'll leave it to the discussion to the RAC on the minutes. Myself, I remember it,

Amy-Motion to accept minutes as they are
Beth-second
6 accept Mitch-oppose
Motion passed

3. OLD BUSINESS:

Bob: Attended the last board meeting. Currently doesn't have notes. To my recollection for your information on what was discussed by the board and what was passed was consistent with the recommendations RAC board. I am available afterwards after the RAC.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Kevin Christopherson

Lets welcome V TV here filming the meeting.

On the personnel side: Budgets are getting tight. State government budgets are tight. We are in a hiring freeze right now. We are one fish biologist down at Flaming gorge, and will adjust work plans to work through that.

On a related note, we have been negotiating with the Bureau of Reclamation on fish flows. They proposed a change on long standing flows up there, and are going to a double peak. They are making changes to in create more power during high electrical demand. It has caused some problems with the anglers last year, and many guides believe they lost business. We are working with the Bureau and with the guides. I believe we are making progress. It's been a busy fall, as always, and we do not have a lot of harvest data yet. Much of the stuff that came through the check station was similar to past years. The weather was really good, almost too good for hunting. We had normal flow of traffic, at least through Steineker check station. We haven't had a chance to analyze that yet.

There is a lot of Winter stuff coming up again for the RAC members if you have any interest, we have the deer mortality study, and a Big Horn Sheep and the Bison transplant coming up. I mentioned last time, the Seep Ridge Road we worked out an agreement with the county. We will be doing some research on that project and, Ben Williams will be heading that effort. We are going to have a combination of Salt Lake people with Regional people involved in the research of

the next several years. Kevin Conway, our former Director started his career in the Basin, he's from Illinois and imagine what he must have thought when he moved to Roosevelt from Illinois. He loved it here, married a local gal, and he loved the Mallard Springs Wildlife Management Area. I really think it shaped his career; he was very strong advocate of habitat. He was the guy that got us going in Habitat in a big way. To honor Kevin, and his family we are going to rename Mallard Springs the "Kevin Conway, Wildlife Management Area". So that's going to be a fun thing. We are trying to coordinate with so his family can be here for that. It's not often that we change the name of a Wildlife Management Area, but Kevin was such a good friend such a great director.

5. 2010 BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL PROPOSALS: Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator (ACTION)

Slide show presented by Anis. See attached

Questions from Public:

Tyrell Abegglen: On your Range Creek South on your Limited Entry what do you figure your bull to cow ratio is out there? Is it where you want it to be?

Anis: We don't manage those units on bull to cow ratios. We manage them on age objective. And it is above age objective.

Tyrell Abegglen: Than if you re not managing them on bull to cow ratio, than what's the point of having a Limited Entry?

Anis: We are managing them on age of harvest objective. So if the age of harvest is above what we need we would issue more permits.

Brent Pitt: How can it be justified by selling roughly 90 thousand permits for the deer hunt, when the buck to doe ratio statewide is below average and you're wiping out all of the bucks? By killing all the bucks, your does aren't going to have fawns either.

Anis: Actually the statewide average is above 15, it's about 16 or 17 bucks per doe ratio.

Brent Pitt: Well still with 90,000 permits, what percentage of kill did you have this year that have you figured out how many bucks been wiped out this year?

Anis: We will have that data before long sir.

Brent Pitt: I hunted here my whole life, for 40 years. And every year the deer herd gets smaller, and smaller, and smaller, and smaller. But the amount of permits being sold keeps going up. Maybe we should cut back on the amount of permits sold to increase our deer herds.

Anis: The number of permits actually hasn't gone up since 94.

Brent Pitt: Well they haven't gone down either.

Mike Davis: Do we have any information on the buck to doe ratio for the Northeastern region?

Anis: Not for this year yet. We don't start our classifications till about this time of year.

Mike Davis: What did you have for last year?

Anis: For which unit?

Mike Davis: For Northeastern

Charlie: For the entire region it is about 16 to 100.

Anis: The 3 year average was 12, but 9 last year for the year.

Brad Horrocks: How many for the South Slope Vernal how many deer tags did we sell this year and how many did we sell last year?

Anis: We don't sell them by unit. We sell them by the region (Northeastern). What ever the cap was, I believe it was 11,000.

Mike Ward: What's the age of the bucks?

Anis: We can't age the bucks when we do classifications, but the data shows that when you have 15 bucks per 100 does, usually at least 30 percent are two years or older.

Al Kettle: What was the point of shutting the South Slope late instead of early?

Anis: The reason for that is shown that 5 day hunts, just shortening them for 5 days doesn't reduce harvest. The reason we delayed it is most of the harvest takes place opening weekend, so there would be a lot of guys that went out and harvested and there would be fewer people that would have an unfilled tag that would be able to hunt that second week. We are trying to reduce harvest, that's the reason we made it shorter. We have seen data say that does reduce the harvest.

Tony Jennings: Do you have any plans to have any management units, here in the Book Cliffs or have management hunts like you do like in the Paunsaugunt?

Anis: No, not currently.

Tony Jennings: Why?

Anis: Because those are only on Premium Limited Entry hunt units. And they are managed differently.

Daniel Davis: What's the consideration of the issuing additional 1500 archery permits for youth? What's the chance of the state could make the archers prequalified to hunt with that, where the youth are very capable of drawing a bow of lethal poundage and wound an animal? Adversely that affects the buck to doe ratio, right there.

Anis: All the youth have to go out with an adult, and hopefully they will have a good mentor with them that will show when and when not to shoot.

Daniel Davis: That's true, but the capabilities depend more on that.

Anis: With the new bows, most kids can draw a 45 pound and hold it back. And that's what it needs to be to be legal. And if they can't they shouldn't be out hunting.

Daniel Davis: But they will be anyway.

Pat Pitt: If the buck to doe ratio is so bad in some areas, why not close the area for a few years and then when you reopen it you make it 3 point or better?

Anis: The one reason you don't want to close the unit off, its good actually to harvest bucks every year. Because every buck that you don't harvest is going to be competing with a doe for winter range. So it's not good that you just not let bucks not be harvested. You don't want to harvest as many, but you still want to harvest bucks. And the reason we don't do 3 point or better is it doesn't decrease the harvest with the same amount of permits issued, it just delays you one year. You end up saving a lot of yearling bucks, but you harvest them as a 2 year old. So it doesn't reduce the harvest it just delays it one year.

Anthony Mc?: Is hunter safety taken into like when they closed that up on the South Slope or into the later season, is that considered at all an issue when issuing the tags? Is hunter safety not a factor?

Anis: Certainly, but what you have to remember is there was a time that we had twice the number of hunters that we do now. And safety was not an issue than. I don't think by closing it or having a late opener on that your increase hunting on the other units.

Anthony M: What I'm saying as in overall when you're figuring out the number of tags to be issued.

Anis: Yeah, sure that is certainly an issue. But I guess we didn't feel that there was that that much of an impact.

Matt Jennings: On this #4, when you're talking about moving the muzzleloader season from October 26th to the September 29th in the Paunsaugant. I was just wondering, rather

than move the muzzleloader, which for having a muzzleloader. It's been pretty nice having it during the rut as a primitive weapon. Why not move the management hunt to an earlier date?

Anis: It just makes it consistent to all of the other units. That's when we have muzzleloader hunts statewide. I guess it just makes it law enforcement easier.

Matt Jennings: Is that the same way for other Premium limit units too?

Anis: Yes, that is one of the main reasons to make it consistent.

Clay Hammond: Looking at the last years buck to doe ratio on the South Slope, we went from 14 bucks per 100 does in 2006 to 12 in 2007 and to 9 in 2008. Do you feel that by shortening the season was going to be enough to bring the bucks back? Now that's a pretty steep down hill slide. To reverse that trend, do you feel the 5 day season was enough to do that?

Anis: I don't know. That's what we will see after we get the harvest in and the classification data. In the plan, if the 3 year average is actually below 10 we than take that unit out of the regional cap and just issue enough permits to lightly hunted (I guess). So there is a way to deal with it if it does drop below. We are hoping this will help; I will be presenting something later on the new hunt structure. If that hunt structure goes into play, than it will be easier to actually manage that, you can have it open and early season closed in the later season. This will cut the hunting pressure in half. But once again, that is later down the road. But for this year, we are going to see what the data says and if doesn't work, we will readjust.

Richard Hamilton: Why is the archery elk hunt is so much earlier than other states?

Anis: Basically, then new hunt structure I will go through or deal with some of that. The reason for that is that all of our hunts in Utah were initially based around the general deer rifle hunt. This has to start the 3rd Saturday in October. We basically back everything off of that. So what ends up happening is the archery hunt starts the 3rd Saturday, in August every year and in some years it's earlier. And sometimes it can be a difference from up to a week. That's why it was this year and this year was as early it could have possibly been. And next year, it will start the 21st and it will be later. Yeah I agree, this is probably and it seems like the falls have been warmer than they ever been. Even the muzzleloader hunt this year, I was dying. It's certainly an issue.

Questions from RAC:

Amy: I was just wondering I know there were those 5 units that had the 5 day hunt, 2 of those units, the La Sal and Nebo I have noticed are switched over, and I now the Cache and Ogden. Are they recovered?

Anis: Yeah, Yeah they are back up to objective.

Amy: And we found that those other two units have gone down?

Anis: Right. Those are based off a 3 year average of the buck to doe ratio.

Amy: And than, my only other question was the recommendation of changing the dates of Nine Mile Range Creek Limited Entry late rifle hunt. That's over two months long?

Anis: It is, yeah, that's basically that unit is kind of unique. Most of the bulls are on private land for the majority of the season. So to increase the hunter success on that we had to make it a longer season. They only come down if there's weather. And sometimes there's weather that early sometimes there's not. So making it that long, there's more of a chance for the hunter being successful.

Amy: Are they not getting hunted down to objective?

Anis: Well it's a Limited Entry unit and if the success rate is low, you would hate to have the limited entry units where you would have so many people putting for so many years and not harvesting. It's mostly for that.

Amy: It just seemed such a long time.

Anis: It is, but it's just the capture them when they eventually come down. It's hard to predict when they will come down.

Amy: I was just making sure it wasn't a typo.

Floyd: On the North Slope, do you have any idea the land mass difference of the South Slope and North Slope of the Northeastern Unit. Would you say the south slope is 2/3 of the Northeastern unit?

Anis: I don't have that information. I wouldn't venture a guess, maybe someone here would know.

Floyd: Have you done the buck to doe ratio, when do you do that postseason?

Anis: That hasn't been done yet for this year.

Floyd: So you don't know if the delayed hunt in the Northeastern slope actually showed a benefit in the Northeastern Unit?

Anis: No, not yet.

Floyd: You say the doe to buck ratio is that statewide?

Anis: The one that I showed up there earlier?

Floyd: Yes

Anis: Yes, what I showed up there was statewide. But that was just public lands general season units. That didn't include Limited Entry or private lands.

Amy: How did you determine the split archery hunt this year, with half the season units half statewide? How did that work out?

Anis: Are you talking about statewide Archery?

Amy: Yes

Anis: Yeah, I will show you that table that shows how everything is split out. Like how many hunters hunt in each region?

Amy: Yeah and I guess, we did the split where you had to pick your unit?

Anis: Right

Amy: And than you're requesting statewide again this year? I was just wondering.

Anis: And that's the reason we did this, was to gather this data which showed us what the actual average per acre per archer. And the reason we did it was to see if there were actual crowding issues. And there really wasn't, so that's why we decided to go back to statewide archery.

Comments from the Public:

Kim Lawson: I am the Northeastern region representative for Utah Bow Hunters Association, also represents Split Mountain Archers, we would just like to state that we go along with the recommendations made by the RAC on the statewide archery hunt. And, also on the Youth hunt for the 1500 additional tags for the youth. Thank you.

Brad Horrocks: I like to instead of shortening the days and the hunter opportunity, I would like to see them drop the tags by about 4,000 for Northeast Region. Our numbers are going down, let's not take away the hunter opportunity and the experience of being

out there, let's take care of the problem. Don't Band-Aid fix it. I've heard more comments and more dissatisfaction with the hunt this year than I think I ever had, being over packed on the North Slope [deer]. Instead of managing for a budget item, let's manage them for what's going on. If it went down for 3 years in a row, let's drop the tags. We dropped them 1,000 last year; let's drop them 4,000 instead of doing the shorter days.

Mike Davis: My comment is on the No management units on the regular limited entry [unit] as in the Book Cliffs, Diamond Mountain area. I have had opportunity, been very fortunate to hunt in the Book Cliffs for two years. Both years, we were out there, I had a tag and my son had a tag for this year, there are a lot of huge 2 points. I am talking 28 to 38 inch 2 points; they aren't going to be anything but a 2 point. I believe if we are looking for an opportunity to get hunters more opportunity to the State of Utah recommend that we do some type of management unit in these areas. Making it 2 point on one side even make it for the youth. Let the youth draw a tag in those management units and let them shoot something that has 2 points on one side. If you have good genetics, that yearling buck hunt is going to be a 3 point anyway; he's not going to be affected by that. If he's got the genes we like to keep in those limited entry areas. I don't know how to do it, or how to put it in to place. I would recommend that we do some sort of management hunt in the Book Cliffs and Diamond Mountain area rather than just the Premium units that we already have.

Comments from the RAC:

Floyd: Late season opener on the Northeastern unit. With this is just guessing that the land mass of the Northeastern Utah, if you break it up into regions; Southern and Northern that the Northern would probably be less than a third. We are taking 100 percent of 11,000 tags and putting it on the unit. The County had more officers called for trespass because the people of the public looking to hunt. Put 70 percent of the kill on the North, decrease Northern Unit rather than delay the season, I would rather see shorten the season. Buck to doe ratio Wyoming is our salvation, 4 point or better we have a lot of does in the Northern unit. This could be an issue, if we kill 70 percent on the northern unit, we will be in the same shape as the southern part.

Mitch: On the comments of Brad Horrocks, when we decreased on Diamond Mountain we had good results. We shortened plus reduced the amount of tags. What I have seen is shorten season does work; it has shown to work on Diamond Mountain.

Bob: Let's just discuss season dates.

Loran: Logistical question: What are we voting on? Approval or disapprove proposal than recommend changes?

Bob: Motion can be changes, open changes.

Loran: Point by point?

Bob: Yes, we can. Hope we don't.

Amy: [Clarification question for Anis] Only management hunts on Premium Limited Entry units, not others. Why?

Anis: Because of such low harvest.

Mitch: [To Anis], would a 4,000 be reasonable?

Anis: Don't think it's needed. From a biology standpoint you don't need to reduce permits- bucks per 100 does.

Mitch: Why did Diamond Mountain do so good?

Anis: On a statewide plan, you have the opportunity. The only way to a trophy is to cut permits. This goes against statewide general season.

Bob: Only talking about dates not numbers.

Curtis: If you want lots of deer, 15 bucks per 100 does you want bigger bucks, but you have fewer deer. Same thing goes for Cows and Bull elk make up your mind what you want. Wildlife Board.

Anis: In March when we do set the numbers, harvest numbers will be there. The needed cuts will be available and a decision will be made.

Curtis: When we say dates, can we change dates in March?

Anis: No, they have to be done now.

MOTION by Amy to accept DWR dates as presented and recommended

Loran seconds

Floyd would like to second with amendment that we shorten days by 4.

Kevin: reduce entire region opener same as all region shortened.

Curt: Didn't you say that shorter season there is no effect?

Anis: Yes

****** Comments come from audience, not part of discussion******

Bob: Comments only from RAC.

Motioned by Amy

Seconded 7 Accept 1 Oppose- Floyd

Second Item: Amendments- Management plan premium
Group meeting with recommendations; 3 year study premium with the objective of 5 too high. 4 year olds in trophy size 5?

Questions from the Public:

None

Questions from the RAC:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

None

Amy motion to accept

Ron second

Vote is unanimous

**6. STATEWIDE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT: Anis Aoude,
Wildlife Program Coordinator (ACTION)**

Presented by Anis- please see attached.

Questions from the Public:

None

Questions from the RAC:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

None

MOTION by Amy to accept as presented

Second by Ron
Passed unanimous

7. CWMU & LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2010 & RULE R657-37
AMENDMENT: Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator (ACTION)

Presented by Boyde, see attachment

Questions from the Public:

Danny Bentley: On CWMU allowed to hunt public property? Land locked management objectives?

Mitch: Also extra tags to public

Boyde: Yes, more tags? Lands

Danny Bentley: Public ground, why not a public hunt?

Boyde: It's considered a limited entry.

Mike Davis: I had a friend draw out on a moose permit; he had to hunt the ugliest property. Give all equals a chance to hunt.

Boyde: By rule, all area is open to everyone. There is a complaint process that you can address your concerns to ensure that doesn't happen again.

Clay Hammon: Once in a lifetime hunt, he lost his moose opportunity.

Boyde: Should be something done by the Wildlife Board. Lots of changes over 10 years. Make more fair advantage to public.

Bob: Comments

Questions from the RAC:

Mitch: On the one that dropped out which one dropped out, was there problems with DWR?

Boyde: Sold property. Alan Smith

Amy: For 2010 landowner changes, are you going to discuss that now or?

Boyde: That will be later.

Bob: 1st part we will motion than the other

Boyde: 1st part will motion than second etc.

Comments from the Public:

Mike Davis: A follow up on his question earlier on what can be done? What is the recommended x amount of acres to x amount of permits. Recommendation that public should have the same opportunity to hunt all and have the same access as big dollar individuals.

Al Kettle: I have talked to CWMU operator, his words that the operator keeps his public hunts in one area and the high dollar individual is given another. It's just not fair.

Comments from the RAC:

Amy: Is there something written in the rule stating the acreage needs to be available? Also, the complaint process, is it written?

Boyde: Yes all of the regions have a form. There are four copies to this form. A meeting or committee makes the recommendation to the board. The complaint form is also available on our webpage.

Amy: The board decides?

Boyde: Yes.

Curtis: Why did we come up with the CWMU program?

Boyde: Mid-90s CHA- a group then worked with legislature with landowners to keep lands open. Keep from development. We now have 2.1 million acres available.

Curtis: Landowner can offer trespass permit and make more money. Can be shut down at any time to hunting correct?

Boyde: That is correct.

Mitch: Are there evaluation forms for anyone who has hunted a CWMU?

Boyde: Yes.

MOTION by Ron Winterton on CWMU portion as per presented; second Amy Passed unanimously

**Landowner Association Applications:
Presented by Boyde see attachment**

Questions from the RAC:

Amy: Could you go back to the last slide? For the Mt. Dutton are they still requesting 6?

Boyde: They have requested 6 that qualified for 5.

Amy: Is this because they have 6 landowners?

Boyde: Yes, they have 6 and they want to be able to give each landowner a permit. Sometimes that's just not possible.

Curt: I just have a comment; if that was the case on the Diamond Mountain we wouldn't have enough deer to give to every landowner.

Boyde: That's the largest one in the state.

Questions from the Public:

Al Kettle: On these landowner association tags, when they offer them to sell to the public, does that have to come with trespass permit?

Boyde: Unless they request a variance, the Landowner Association have to allow equal number of permits that they receive, access to all private lands within the association.

Bob: Any other questions from the public?

Bob: Alright we will move to comments from the RAC. Any comments from the RAC?

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

Amy: What is the PLPILR ?

Mitch: On these landowner tags, the landowners use these for compensation for depredation; some of the landowners use them for habitat projects and predator control. This money doesn't go in the back pockets to Vegas. A lot of this goes to wildlife management, habitat and water projects.

Bob: Any other comments/discussion.

Motion by Beth to accept DWR recommendations

Second Curtis

Passed unimamously

Change to R657-37-9:

Presented by Boyde see attachment

Questions from the Public:

Mike Davis: Just a clarification on not being able to sell, trade, auction or barter, what benefit is it than for the charitable organization, what is the CWMU permit from that charitable organization allow you to do? Children's Justice Center, in Uintah County, They donate that permit to them, what will they do, how do they utilize that tag if they are not able to barter, sell, or raffle it off for profit for them. What benefit is it?

Boyde: Some organizations won't be able to benefit from that. Just like any other organization. Not everybody can benefit from everything. There are some that won't be able to do it. However, there are some that will be able to benefit from it and they can give it to someone that can use it.

Mike Davis: Can you give an example?

Boyde: Make-A-Wish

Kevin: It's the recipient that benefits from the permit not the charitable organization.

Questions from the RAC:

Beth: What do you consider charitable organization?

Boyde: Would be a 501 C 3, anything that qualifies as a 501 C 3.

Beth: No profit?

Boyde: Yeah.

Loran: Can you go back to the last slide? So you can't sell, trade, auction or barter these vouchers, what can they do with it?

Boyde: You can give it to somebody that, maybe you have somebody that you know on Make -A- Wish that has never had an opportunity to hunt a bull. They will do this, or they will give it to someone who has terminal cancer that never had an opportunity to, they would give it them.

Loran: I work a lot with 501 C 3's stuff; we can use that as an auction item to raise money for your charity?

Boyde: Yeah, it's not to do that. There are organizations and groups out there that already do this, raise money for that. This is for a charitable cause.

Comments from the Public:

Brett Hanson: I believe there should be clarification for what the charity can do instead of what they can't do.

Comments from the RAC:

None

Amy made motion to accept as presented, accept the changes to the rule.

Ron second

Passed unanimously

8. MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Kent Hersey, Wildlife Program Coordinator (ACTION) Presented by Anis see attachment

Questions from the Public:

None

Questions from the RAC:

Amy: In the tables, one of the tables' talks about the 5 year trends, it shows it going down, but when I look at the numbers it has the units, 5 stable, 7 are up and 2 are down, how are they down?

Anis: For the most part they are stable, there's just a decrease in the larger units.

Mitch: The history that I have heard is that the moose don't have much of a predator problem, are there any units that have predator problems?

Anis: Not usually, although when we introduced them to Fish Lake, some were preyed upon by cougars, which was unusual. Bears preyed on calves but usually not an issue. The biggest problem we have for the moose is having to have a high nutrition for the cows to have calves each year.

Comments from the Public:

Brad Horrocks: With your management plan we had people in here last year that were dissatisfied, with the quality of moose they were getting from the Northeastern Region. I heard the same this year. Are we doing anything about it?

Anis: From our data shows, the decline quality isn't there. On average, people are shooting at a 40 inch wide animal and that average is maintained for as long as we have kept record. There may have been some people that were unhappy, but I don't believe it's the majority. A lot of years when you have poor rain conditions, the age is there but the growth of antlers isn't there. Average age is 4-5 age class. Still managing for higher age class with 80 percent success rate.

Cole Murray: Do we trade moose with other states for other animals?

Anis: We don't trade other states with other animals; we do provide other states with moose when we are over objective, i.e. Odgen. Other states more palatable if we need something like Bighorn Sheep. It's not a straight trade.

Comments from the RAC:

None

MOTION by Amy accept as presented

Brandon second

Passed unanimous

9. 2011 BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL STRUCTURE: Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator (INFORMATIONAL) presented by Anis, see attachment

Questions from the Public:

Tyrell Abegglen: You want to separate out the deer hunts; you want to lower the crowding on the deer hunt.

Anis: That's correct

Tyrell Abegglen: Let's just say that you have 14,000 deer tags this year you sold. You want to cut that in half, so that will give you 7,000 in one and 7,000 in the other. And you're doing the same thing for the elk.

Anis: Yes

Tyrell Abegglen: Let's just say you have 14,000 for elk and you cut those in half as well. You still have 14,000. You will have the same amount of hunters.

Anis: No you wouldn't, because you don't have as many elk hunters as deer hunters. There are only 12,500 spike tags statewide and 14,500 any bull tags statewide, even with cutting both of them in half; you will still have fewer hunters than you have now.

Tyrell Abegglen: Me, I hunt rifle. Why not make a muzzleloader deer hunt during the elk hunt or make a pistol hunt available for deer?

Anis: We can certainly look into that. We are having issues with maintaining the regulations that we have now for muzzleloader. That is certainly something we could consider.

Tyrell Abegglen: Maybe even a revolver hunt for deer?

Anis: We can look into that too.

Daniel Davis: With this proposal, how does this help low units?

Anis: If buck to doe ratio is low on a unit, you can hunt it early and but not late. You would say 50 percent of the hunters would be off of it.

Daniel Davis: So the State would be giving up 50 percent of permits not being sold?

Anis: No, it's still on a regional basis, they still will sell the tag it's just that you can't hunt that unit.

Daniel Davis: With that, last year, it was brought up those specific units for deer did not have enough law enforcement to patrol those areas. We have 26 gun hunts going on at the same time, making it 26 units that need to be patrolled. What are we not looking at that for deer?

Anis: The reason is the law enforcement of that region of that didn't go. But we did our statewide deer plan and we put a survey out there. The majority of the people didn't want a unit by unit manager, because that would limit where they could hunt for those that hunt more than one unit. That's the reason it didn't go, it wasn't from a law enforcement standpoint. The general public did not want to be restricted to one unit.

Mike Davis: We are restricted to 5 units now.

Anis: Correct, but the people who took the survey didn't want to be restricted to just one unit.

Daniel Davis: With that said, will that help the management problem?

Anis: Yeah it could help, but you could do that same thing. Lowering the permits on a specific unit or you could do it the other way as well.

Dave Yaden: How and when do you do the buck to doe ratio count?

Anis: Buck to doe ratios will probably start this week or next week. It will go through the rut through December to mid January.

Dave Yaden: Do you count the Limited Entry areas with this?

Anis: No, they are all done separately. All units are done separately and we don't count the Limited Entry units.

Dave Yaden: You send people out?

Anis: Yes, the biologist of that area goes out.

Richard Hammond: Traditional muzzleloader with magnified scope. Could split inline vs. Round ball?

Anis: You are in the round ball minority; most hunters will use the inline with a scope. Not enough dates.

Richard Hammond: Why can't there be two separate hunts?

Anis: There are not enough dates in the season to accommodate.

Tyrell Abegglen: (comment made about muzzleloader hunt and elk hunt- not very clear on recording)

Anis: You can but you'll have to wear orange.

Mike Davis: Going to the traditional muzzleloader, going with other states and I hate to compare Utah to other states, but they do provide a traditional muzzleloader hunt during the rut. If we are that big minority, give us the opportunity for a late November hunt. Give us the opportunity to hunt during the rut, 100 yards or less.

Dustin Davis: Muzzleloader each way, why get special opportunity?

Matt Draper: On the general season deer on the early and late, will it be split 50 to 50?

Anis: Initially it will be 50 50 but we have to look at exceptions, where we may have to modify whether the other one is more susceptible than the other.

Lance Hadlock: Why not leave the muzzleloader hunt the way it is instead of letting the rifle hunters go in first.

Anis: Yeah, we have had a lot of comments on this. This is why we are bringing this out a year in advance, to get comments like that.

Lance Hadlock: Is there chance of it staying to the end of September? Again, it will all depend on how much comment we get towards this.

Anis: It will be the first of October, not the end of September.

Tyrell Abegglen: What would you do with the muzzleloader elk season?

Anis: It will be at the same time. We are trying to combine the deer and elk.

Danny Bentley: If the success rate on these hunts happens within the first 4 days, why not make the season for 4 days. Your running the animals for the entire month of October, why not give them a break?

Anis: Are you talking about Limited Entry hunt? All of them?

Danny Bentley: The one up on the screen.

Anis: That was Limited Entry elk that we were talking about in the rut.

Danny Bentley: Well it still looks like your running the animals the entire month of October. Why not give them a break?

Anis: They don't need a break. They either being chased by another species or anybody else. That's what deer do, they run from things.

Mike Cook: How does that work with lifetime license holder?

Anis: That is something we are going to need more discussion about, probably they will have to pick the early/late rifle or muzzleloader.

Evona: Split season for rifle deer and elk is it required to hunt at same time? Why not like Colorado where you draw both tags at the same time?

Anis: In Colorado, you have more elk hunters than they do deer. Here, we have more deer hunters than we have elk hunters.

Tyrell Abegglen: You'll have people able to hunt deer and elk at the same time; you'll have more people buying elk tags over the counter.

Anis: You won't because there are a set number of permits.

Bryan Cook: Is there anything that can be done, I see that there may be a little bit of a problem with me and my kids drawing different hunts and myself having so much time off of work to go hunting. Is there anything that can be done to ensure that we are in a group?

Anis: Yeah, you can still apply in a group like you do now.

Lance Hadlock: What are you going to do on the Dedicated Hunter program, are you going to be able to hunt all of October or you going to limit it?

Anis: It will probably be similar where you will have to pick one. That will be something that will happen internally, I'm not in charge of the Dedicated Hunter program so I don't know what will happen.

Daniel Davis: It was specified earlier on different weapon times in the Delores Triangle. But in the Book Cliffs elk hunt is at the same time, will the archers going to get the same opportunity?

Anis: I don't know if you are familiar with the Delores Triangle, but it's a tiny unit that is basically into Colorado you will hear it in that unit; where as in the Book Cliffs you won't hear it because it's a larger unit.

Daniel Davis: Same thing in archery season in Book Cliffs?

Anis: I'm not sure what your question or what Colorado is doing.

Daniel Davis: We hunt archery while they hunt muzzleloader.

Anis: We don't want to follow Colorado or other states, to much confusion. We have to have our own hunt structure that works for the entire state.

Daniel Davis: What's the possibility of two seasons? To decrease pressure.

Anis: It's not for the deer benefit, but for the hunter benefit. That will also decrease the number of hunters out there.

Daniel Davis: The common concern to the public is killing a small deer. Has it ever been proposed or talked about that the deer tags would be cut in half, and the price double? The deer herd you would have a better quality buck, much less pressure, the profit still comes into the state.

Anis: It definitely has been proposed and considered. The thing is that Utah is not worried about the income; it is worried about the hunters. The fewer hunters you have, the fewer hunters you will have in the future. So it becomes a rich man's sport. Everyone wants a trophy. What I'm saying is that we are losing sportsman every year.

Mike Davis: That takes me back to comment early about the management unit. We need to keep our youth involved. 2 points with generate an interest in more youth.

Lance Hadlock: The 3 corners, Limited Entry Elk unit dates don't match up.

Anis: I will give this one to Charlie. It's a transitional herd that goes back and forth on this.

Charlie: It's a tri-state agreement.

Anis: We will have to leave it that way. We would like to keep everything consistent statewide.

Alan Knight: You said that harvest most of the deer opening weekend. You take start mid week, you get out and hunt but just two units, how does that affect the harvest?

Anis: Success rate:

Alan Knight: Success rate, yes.

Anis: Success rates don't change much, might take a year but it goes back.

Questions from the RAC:

Amy: So if you have General Season deer and elk, you can hunt both at same time?

Anis: Yes, you will have to draw them separately.

Amy: For the late would you have to put in for one or the other?

Anis: Correct, there were a specific number set for the early and late. You can't hunt both.

Comments from the Public:

Ryan Thornock: Farm Bureau, our policy is voted on by the members of the Utah Farm Bureau is to support the General Season deer hunt date being the Saturday closest being the 20th October, basically how it is now. The only concern we have with the general season any weapon hunts being moved to the front of October is that typically gathering time of the livestock operators. There will be a lot of sheep and cattle coming off the mountain at that time, and that will increase the interaction between hunters and livestock operators, which can have an affect on hunter satisfaction and create some frustrating situations. And on some of those tight draws, I'm sure hunters have already experienced

this occasionally. Typically the BLM and Forest Service permits close on the 15th of October, that's not standard across the board, but that's typical. I know Mitch has said that in the Northeast region a lot of them close in November, so it wouldn't be a big issue in the Northeast region. That's our concern from Farm Bureau is moving those dates to the front of October. Thank you.

Danny Bentley: What I have seen this year with the closing of the South Slope, most of the deer hunters moved to the North Slope, and they killed a lot of 2 point and smaller bucks. Maybe if we moved to a 3 point or better it would reduce the number of bucks that we killed on these units.

Tyrell Abeggan: Decrease the number is to offer a pistol hunt.

Brett Pitt: left (no comment made)

Dave Chivers: I am with the Diamond Mountain Landowners Association and this is a lot to digest. I don't see the benefits outweighing the good it is going to do. A few things come to my mind and first, law enforcement how are we going to take care of the problem, we are already short law enforcement. Second thought I have had is I don't know why anybody would want to wait 20 years to draw a limited entry tag and even some of the general season tags are starting to get harder to come by now. A little bit concern is most us hunters are wildlife best friends. We go in and interrupt where we see them all summer long, 4 days before the season begins, and there is a camper there. If we can put hunters there, that can kill both species at the same time, and that's mainly why the animal is taken is because somebody else moved them somewhere else. Being at the right place at the right time. I know Diamond Mountain is a little different, but that would be getting rid of our second elk season.

Kim Lawson: Utah Bow Hunters Association, we support these structure changes and hope that you move forward.

Floyd Bartlett: Keep people in hunters pool changing season to mid week affects our youth. Kids need to be in school. 12 to 14 year olds should be in school. Some districts let people out, due to family traditions. Doing a disfavor to the Education System by starting midweek. It's a disadvantage to youth opening the season mid week. We heard that Utah is not concerned about income, but we are all naïve. Hunting animals don't exist if you have fewer tags.

Mike Cook: If this goes through, elk turns into a draw. With a family of 5 that adds up. Why not make an application fee per person instead of for species or family.

Al Kettle: 3 point or better, Book Cliffs taking out the good genes are the 2 points are never harvested out. Provide a youth hunt involving several groups, 12 year olds with no parental help. It's hard for law enforcement and 12 years lack common sense, some no hunter orange.

What do you do without hunter orange?

Bob: Call the division.

Kevin: Call poaching line

Tony Jennings: Quality of hunt goes up. I want the Division to look at more management hunts in Book Cliffs. Let good genes do breeding providing a better quality.

Daniel Davis: Youth hunts. Create more youth hunts to increase success rates. It's crowding with parents pushing their youth to be successful. 10,000 antlerless elk permits, 16,000 doe deer permits were given to youth.

Comments from the RAC:

Amy: I heard good comments, ideas and problems. To get your comments addressed, get them in writing and submitted to the Utah Division of Wildlife. This is your chance to get involved, right now comments currently in will vote next year out.

Curt: With the Division is the information available. Where do they go to this?

Anis: Available on line. Looking at interactive, several ways to view it. Formal survey as well. We need as much input as needed.

Daniel Davis: Survey is only 30 percent

Anis: Random survey yes, but also a link to comment on internal random sampling.

Loran: We have this new schedule how many times are we going to come back to this?

Anis: In July.

BOB: Get your comments in, reiterated Amy's comments.

10. ANNUAL REPORT ON WILDLIFE MORTALITY (ACTION LOG ITEM): Kent Hersey, Wildlife Program Coordinator (INFORMATIONAL) Presented to Anis, see attached.

Questions from the Public:

Tyrell Abegglen: In order to find out how many deer are being hit, are you letting HWY patrol take data, or let the animal be taken?

Anis: Magnify big trucks don't stop.

Brett Hansen: Use to see a lot of dead deer near Jordanelle[Reservoir], with the X crossing. Do they collect them a lot?

Anis: Worst idea we ever did. We tried to tunnel deer into one area. We would like to retro fit something new.

Daniel Davis: Can you make UDOT making if the road is already torn up, why not just put in the permanent crossing fixtures?

Anis: Can't make anyone do anything, we do ask every time. Hwy 6 is a good example, redoing it making it straighter. We had to input 5 years in advance. They use to ask at 2 years, no funds and it needs to be done in the planning stages.

JC Brewer: We understand deer migrate, the meaning to cross, isn't it cheaper to provide feed and water on the side they are already on. Or have water and feed on both sides?

Anis: Problem with that is that they may bed on one side and feed on the other.

JC Brewer: Is the food visibility along the road, with clean shoulders would that help?

Anis: Drink, food, there are lots of things going on.

Questions from the RAC:

Mitch: You see all the little devices you can put on your vehicles. Do they work?

Anis: My inclination is they don't, but you will get different answers.

Mitch: Have they done any research?

Anis: Yes, but remember, deer tune things out too, especially if they hear it all of the time.

Comments from the Public:

NONE

Comments from the RAC:

NONE

Meeting adjourned: 9:46pm

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Richfield High School
Richfield, UT
November 3, 2009
5:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. 2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL PROPOSALS

MOTION: To accept the 2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals as presented with the exception that the Southern Region go to a 5 day any weapon hunt with a 9 day youth hunt.

VOTE: 5:2

3. STATEWIDE DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

MOTION: To accept the Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. CWMU & LANDOWNER PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2010 & RULE R657-37 AMENDMENT

MOTION (CWMU): To accept the statewide CWMU permit numbers for 2010 as presented, and allow the Alton CWMU to have 5 additional Management Buck permits as requested (4 private: 1 public) to be revisited no later than 2 years from now.

VOTE (CWMU): Unanimous.

MOTION (LOA): To accept the LOA permit numbers for 2010 as presented.

VOTE (LOA): Unanimous.

MOTION (Rule Amendment): To accept the Rule R657-37 Amendment as presented.

VOTE (Rule Amendment): Unanimous.

5. MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: To accept the Moose Management Plan as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

6. 2011 BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL HUNT STRUCTURE

MOTION (CWMU): That the Southern Region RAC supports and requests DWR look at the proposal, unit by unit management, and act on it as soon as possible (2011).

VOTE: 6:1

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Richfield High School
Richfield, UT
November 3, 2009
5:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Chairman Steve Flinders Steve Dalton Cordell Pearson Layne Torgerson Mack Morrell Sam Carpenter Clair Woodbury Paul Briggs	Douglas Messerly Natalie Brewster Jim Lamb Lynn Chamberlain Brent Farnsworth Kody Jones Josh Pollock Teresa Bonzo Anis Aoude Blaine Cox Sean Kelly Dustin Schaible Heather Grossman Jason Nicholes Boyd Blackwell Rick Larsen Alan Clark Trail Kreitzer Fred Pannunzio Vance Mumford Lynn Zubeck	Paul Neimeyer Jake Albrecht Tom Hatch Ernie Perkins Rick Woodard	Rex Stanworth Dell Lefevre

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. There were approximately 110 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Steve Flinders introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Steve Flinders explained RAC meeting procedures.

Steve Flinders: . . . Respectful of that and then we'll move to questions; which we want you to stick to questions. And then we'll go on to comments. Please fill out a comment card with the appropriate agenda item. Item number five, it's an action item dealing with the bucks and bulls and once in a lifetime proclamation. We also have an agenda item number nine that's informational, which I think based on the e-mails and discussions I've heard, many of you may be here to talk about a proposed change in hunt framework, starting in 2011. So for your comment cards to make things go smoother tonight, that's agenda item number nine if you want to talk about a change in season framework. 2010 will be much like you're used to the last few years as far as the proposal. So as far as that goes I'll start on my left, Layne if you want to introduce RAC members.

Layne Torgerson: My name's Layne Torgerson. I'm representing the sportsman.

Mac Morrell: Mac Morrell, representing agriculture.

Douglas Messerly: My name is Doug Messerly, regional supervisor with the Division of Wildlife Resources in the Southern region. My staff and myself act as executive secretary to this committee.

Steve Flinders: I'm Steve Flinders, the chair, as you may have guessed. I represent the Fishlake and Dixie National Forest. I vote in the cases of a tie. Let me at this time introduce some Wildlife Board members; we've got Rick Woodard the Chair, Jake Albrecht, Ernie Perkins, it looks like Paul Neimeyer, he's a retired but he just can't give this up, and Tom Hatch. Go ahead Steve.

Steve Dalton: Yeah, my name's Steve Dalton. I'm from Teasdale. I'm an at-large representative.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter, I'm from Kanab. I represent the sportsman.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I'm an at-large representative.

Cordell Pearson: I'm Cordell Pearson from Circleville. I'm an at-large representative.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. And with that I'll take a motion on the agenda and minutes.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Steve Dalton: I make a motion to accept as presented.

Steve Flinders: Move by Steve.

Layne Torgerson: Second.

Steve Flinders: Second by Layne. All in favor? Any against? Unanimous.

Steve Dalton made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as written. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Agenda item number three, Wildlife Board update.

Wildlife Board Update:

-Steve Flinders, Chairman

- All of our votes were in support of the Division of Wildlife's proposals on the Southern Region RAC. And as I recall for the bat management plan, fishing proclamation, falconry, all things were passed as we had discussed and passed down here.

Steve Flinders: So if there are not any questions we'll move on Doug to a regional update.

Regional Update:
-Douglas Messerly, Regional Supervisor

Douglas Messerly: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll keep this very brief in light of tonight's long agenda.

- At the Wildlife Board meeting the Kolob Reservoir Management Plan was passed for the 2010 proclamation. It was an issue of some controversy here. I just wanted to let you know that we're in the process now of developing an outreach program to help inform the public about the changes there and look forward to that being a successful strategy.
- Secondly, of course we're in the middle of the hunts, getting towards the end of the hunts for this year. We've had nice weather, a lot of participation. It remains to be seen what sort of success we'll have when we conduct the surveys this fall and winter. But it's been an enjoyable fall I think for a lot of folks in the outdoors.
- Finally the management buck hunt, which has been of some interest to this committee, commences this weekend on the Paunsagaunt. We've got 50 permits. We'll be there on site with a checking station to contact hunters, give them information, and check their deer in, hopefully saving them some time when they get back home to not have to go check their deer in at the regional office.

Douglas Messerly: With that unless there's any questions Mr. Chairman I'm ready to move on.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug. I've heard about a lot of good deer harvested this year. I've been surprised. With that let's move on to the next agenda item. Anis if you're ready to go, 2010 bucks and bulls and once in a lifetime proposals.

2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals (action) 5:02 to 20:02 of 3:02:57
-Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Steve Flinders: Thank you Anis.

Anis Aoude: Not a lot of changes overall.

Steve Flinders: Natalie will you let the record show we've been joined by Paul Briggs. Paul represents the BLM from Cedar City.

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Anis, I've got maybe an introductory question, we understand these recommendations and proposals come based on management plans and previous bucks and bulls informational meetings and things like that. Will you refresh our memories and the folks in the room as to where we are with this (unintelligible) deer plan and the elk plan. You're revising the elk plan now?

Anis Aoude: Sure. Yeah we're currently in the process of revising the elk plan. Basically we've formed a committee. We've put a survey out there. We have the survey results. We'll be reconvening that committee probably late November, late this month. And then we'll have that plan, hopefully completed by March. The deer plan was completed last year so this hunt was the first year under that plan, so the '09 hunt. So that's a five-year plan so it will go from '09 to 2013.

Steve Flinders: So the elk plan, the changes you proposed for 2011, next year, will incorporate the new elk plan.

Anis Aoude: Right, that's correct

Steve Flinders: Anybody else on the RAC have questions for Anis? Go ahead Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Anis, I have one question. On the late start on those five units that are below the buck doe ratio.

Anis Aoude: Yeah.

Layne Torgerson: Is there a reason why we don't open those all at the same time rather than having one in the middle of the week?

Anis Aoude: Yeah there actually is a reason. Basically what we've seen is that just reducing the number of days to five does not reduce buck harvest. So in order to reduce buck harvest we removed it from the opener because most bucks are harvested during the opener so there's fewer people with unpunched tags that can actually hunt those units once they open. And plus, it's a mid-week opener which reduces the number that will go into those units on that opener. Having said that there was a lot of confusion this year on the openers. I think we did reduce harvest on those units but I don't know how much effect we had on the other units that were open. So we don't have any harvest data yet so it's kind of still early to tell. All of the biologists I talked to said there was a reduced harvest from check station data and things like that. But there's not a good feeling of how it affected the other units.

Layne Torgerson: The reason I ask that question is because I've had some e-mails and phone calls from concerned sportsman that felt like that because of the late start on, especially the Monroe because that's right here at home.

Anis Aoude: Uh huh, yeah.

Layne Torgerson: That it applied pressure, additional pressure on the surrounding units, the Pahvant, the Fishlake and the Beaver.

Anis Aoude: It likely did. Yeah, but to what extent we don't know. You know all those units surrounding it have pretty good buck to doe ratios. Whether they were reduced enough to concern us we'll know here in another couple of weeks when all of the classifications are done.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Hi Anis.

Anis Aoude: Hi.

Sam Carpenter: I have a couple of questions. It was just a year or two ago we had the five-day hunts and acted on these units. And you made a presentation and told us that there was actually as many bucks taken on a nine-day hunt as a five-day hunt, you know, when we compared them. Is that true?

Anis Aoude: That's correct.

Sam Carpenter: And then I see that when we get buck to doe ratios down we're going to a five-day hunt. Have we changed our beliefs on that?

Anis Aoude: No we didn't. That's why the delayed starter.

Sam Carpenter: Well the delayed starter puts it closer to the rut which would, in my eyes is just going to devastate it even more. You're going to have your bucks and does more together with you do that.

Anis Aoude: Yeah, I guess the jury is still out on that one. That's just your, that is your opinion . . .

Sam Carpenter: Yeah that is my opinion, that's fine.

Anis Aoude: But it's not data driven.

Sam Carpenter: Ok. Secondly, on the archery hunt, it's nearly a month long. Can you tell me what the venue would be to make a recommendation to shorten that hunt? And I am an avid archer and enjoy the heck out of it but uh, just for the sake of the deer and the pressure that we're applying on them these days, what, where would be the agenda for us to recommend shortening that hunt?

Anis Aoude: This is it.

Sam Carpenter: It is? Okay, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions? Questions from the public for Anis on this presentation.

Layne Torgerson: Steve I have one more.

Steve Flinders: Oh sorry, go ahead Layne.

Layne Torgerson: When you were talking about on the archery cow elk units that we're not, we're not going to have cow elk harvest on those units, the Monroe was one, I don't remember what the other two were.

Anis Aoude: Right.

Layne Torgerson: And you said that the Fish Lake, Thousand Lake was on the agenda this year, is that correct?

Anis Aoude: Yeah, uh huh. Well in '08, in this season.

Layne Torgerson: In '09. I mean the '09 season they weren't allowed to harvest cow elk.

Anis Aoude: Right, that's correct.

Layne Torgerson: But it's now off the agenda? Even though we're going to have these cow hunts coming up in the next two months and harvest whatever. . .

Anis Aoude: Right, we're harvesting enough to bring it to objective.

Layne Torgerson: I guess my concern is the season dates, I mean you're saying that we're going to allow archery harvest of cows in 2010.

Anis Aoude: That's correct.

Layne Torgerson: But we haven't taken into consideration the number of . . .

Anis Aoude: We have taken into consideration.

Layne Torgerson: . . The number of cows we're going to kill this next, the next six weeks.

Anis Aoude: Yeah, we certainly have. Yep.

(Unknown commentator)

Layne Torgerson: The Fish Lake, Thousand Lake.

Anis Aoude: Yeah, those are all have been, yeah.

Layne Torgerson: Okay. That was a concern.

Anis Aoude: Yeah, we definitely take that into consideration.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Steve.

Steve Dalton: Yes am I correct in saying that cow elk will be allowed to be harvested on the Boulder unit this year as opposed to last year?

Anis Aoude: That's correct. During the archery season.

Steve Dalton: Right.

Anis Aoude: Right.

Steve Dalton: So the Boulder and the Plateau, Fish Lake, both will be open this year for cows.

Anis Aoude: Correct. Yep. Right. Only the three units that I put up there will not.

Steve Dalton: Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Any more questions up here? I see a question down here sir. Do you want to come to the mic? And we need your name.

Unknown: No. I'll give you my name, William (Unknown). My son has a late cow permit, and my grandson on the Boulder Plateau for November. So . . . we didn't . . .

Steve Flinders: Yeah. We're just talking about the archery hunt and there's some question about which was closed in the archery hunt last year. Was it the Boulder?

Anis Aoude? It was the Boulder.

Steve Flinders: Not the Fish Lake and not the Thousand Lake. Is everybody on the same page now? Cordell's got one question.

Cordell Pearson: I just have a question to ask you on the Monroe deer; I don't know if you guys had any officers or how many officers on that Monroe Mountain. Did you see a big influx of hunters on the opening day that that opened?

Anis Aoude: I actually went out myself on the opening day with Vance, the biologist out there. From his, you know he's the one who's seen it before; he said there was probably one third the people there that are usually there. And then he went out again on Saturday. And I could have him come up and tell you what he saw. But what he told me is it was a lot fewer people than usually hunt there. So there wasn't an influx of people.

Cordell Pearson: I think that's because there's no deer there.

Anis Aoude: Well I guess that argument would carry that there was no deer there last year but there were more people there.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, just one thing I want to say and I live down there, okay; and I know that 90 percent of the hunters that didn't kill a buck the first weekend everyone of them went to the Monroe because it was like two opening seasons.

Anis Aoude: Well the observations don't show that I guess. And well we'll see when the data comes out.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions up here before I throw it out to the public? Oh we got one from Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah I'm opening up the cows on the Fish Lake. You know we've got almost 1,800 cow tags on this unit. That's about half of the cows on the whole unit?

Anis Aoude: No it's not, but go ahead.

Clair Woodbury: Well now wait. The count last winter was 4,780ish . . .

Teresa Bonzo: (Not in the Mic) 6,800 I believe (unintelligible).

Clair Woodbury: No that was after you counted the calves that weren't born yet. That was the estimate after they had calves.

Teresa Bonzo: (Not in the Mic) (Unintelligible).

Anis Aoude: No.

Clair Woodbury: Would somebody look that up? Because if that's true and we've still, I mean we've got 1,800 tags on those cows, I think we're a little premature to open that up to the archers.

Teresa Bonzo: (Not in the Mic). Yeah, 5,800 before the calves dropped in July. So that's, then we have all the (unintelligible).

(Unknown): Yeah it's good information. And we can't count the unborn calves. You know that's not (unintelligible). We count the count.

Clair Woodbury: We need that information (unintelligible).

Anis Aoude: Yeah but when we make recommendations for harvest we have to take that into consideration; those calves are going to be born; they're going to add to the population. So you need to remove X amount so that when your harvest is done you have X amount. So all of that is calculated and that is what the harvest is based upon.

Clair Woodbury: I guess I understood wrong at our training in August. They said that we go strictly on the winter count.

Anis Aoude: No, we don't go, well we do go strictly on the winter count for population objective. But when we recommend harvest for the next year we have to take into account what was born, what will survive and then what we will . . .

Clair Woodbury: Why?

Anis Aoude: Because we have to harvest X amount to come out with X amount on the other end. We're projecting one year in advance.

Clair Woodbury: I'm just going back to what we were taught in what code was.

Steve Flinders: If I could interject . . . Maybe what we ought to do is to be more appropriate we need to decide tonight whether to open it or not just for archery, but when we have a meeting in springtime and talk about the number of cow tags, that we have some discussion about what kind of success, what kind of harvest we have with archery elk hunting and see how many dead elk we are talking about, or we could take it into account then to some degree if we need to.

Anis Aoude: Sure. And basically what was, what the guidelines are the unit has to be 75 or below percent of objective in order to close it to archery hunting. And that unit is above objective. So it doesn't merit closing the archery hunt.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, we're probably not talking hundreds of cow elk will be harvested with just by archers. But, if you're at objective you may have hundreds of antlerless tags that are going to be issued.

Anis Aoude: Right.

Steve Flinders: Any more questions about that? Do we need to talk about it some more? We still have time. Questions from the public?

Questions from the public:

Ben Louder: My name's Ben Louder. Anis I've got a question in regards to shortening the bow hunt, the archery deer hunt. Is there any biological reason to do that?

Anis Aoude: You're talking about the spike hunt?

Ben Louder: No, the archery deer.

Anis Aoude: Oh. Well we didn't recommend shortening it.

Ben Louder: I know. But one of the RAC members . . .

Anis Aoude: No. Biologically no. I mean the harvest is no higher than any other weapon type.

Ben Louder: All right, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? There's one.

Lee Tracy: The same issue.

Steve Flinders: Can we get your name?

Lee Tracy: Oh, Lee Tracey. Um, the same issue. The statement was made that there was too much pressure on the herds. Can you define what pressure means? Because I've heard people say well there's too many hunters out there chasing them, or it could mean the number of deer that are taken, or the number of deer that are shot and lost or what. Can you explain what that means? Because I don't understand why we would want to shorten the archery season based on the harvest.

Sam Carpenter: So you want me . . .

Anis Aoude: Yeah, I think it was your . . .

Sam Carpenter: Good question. Thank you. Pressure in my eyes is the fact that we have a hunt going

on, people in the field out in pursuit of these animals. That's pressure. And when we do that from mid August until December with continual hunts, and even the deer pressure during elk hunts, I mean they still see people in the field, you still have all the activity out there. In my eyes I view that as pressure. When they don't have pressure is when there's not a hunt going on and there's no one leaving the roads or the boundaries of the roads to pursue the animals and push them around from their normal agenda or whatever on that.

Steve Flinders: Sam is that an observation on the Paunsagaunt or do you see that around the region?

Sam Carpenter: No, I would say that's an observation any place I've ever been. If you're out hunting the animal and out off the road in pursuit of them you're putting pressure on them. And also, I look at on shortening the hunt I think it is have an impact on the resource when we go on longer hunts. Now there's nothing to prove that because we haven't shortened the hunt or kept data or anything to actually make that biological fact.

Steve Flinders: Other questions from the audience? Would you come to the mic sir? We need you on the mic sir.

Greg McGregor: Greg McGregor from Santa Clara. When is the data accumulated that accesses the buck to doe ratio, Anis?

Anis Aoude: It starts here shortly and it goes through the month of December. So basically we try to capture the rut in that classification because that's when most of the bucks are going to be visible.

Greg McGregor: And I have a follow-up to that. So am I correct in assuming that that data would then not be used until 2011, for that hunt?

Anis Aoude: No it is used. Well it's not used for, we use a three year average including this year. But if there is, if the buck to doe ratio drops sufficiently, we don't set numbers until March, so we have that data when we set permit numbers.

Greg McGregor: But it will not be available for this round of RACs or for the subsequent Wildlife Board meeting for this year, right?

Anis Aoude: That's correct.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Go ahead.

Scott Christensen: I'd just like to know how many deer need to be counted. Oh I'm sorry, Scott Christensen from Loa. How many deer need to be counted to establish a statistical data for a buck to doe ratio to be accurate?

Anis Aoude: On most units it's a minimum of 400 does. And then whatever fawns or bucks are associated with that.

Steve Flinders: Follow-up? Go ahead Scott.

Scott Christensen: If you aren't able to count 400 deer on that unit how is the data gathered?

Anis Aoude: That very rarely happens. Most of our sample sizes are 1000 or more on most units.

Steve Flinders: Another question?

Rod Hansen: Rod Hansen. On your item three you've got 1,500 youth archery permits sold over the counter. Why is that limited just to archery? Why don't you spread it out to muzzle-loader and rifle?

Anis Aoude: The reason for that is basically, it's basically to limit the harvest post season. So if you make it a muzzle-loader or a rifle the youth can actually hunt all three seasons. But if they just buy an archery tag they can only hunt archery. So if we made it a rifle or a muzzle-loader those youth that get that permit would actually be able to hunt all three seasons, which would potentially increase harvest. So we're trying to get kids out in the field without affecting the resource greatly. So we want to get them out there hunting. Archery is a good way to teach them to hunt. Granted it's going to be few people that are going to take us up on that because not everybody has archery equipment. And that's basically why that is. We're trying to limit that number. But if a youth had to drive and had the parents that are willing to take them out they could, you know, pick up a bow and learn how to use it and go hunt.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions from the public? Yes sir.

Nolan Gardner: Yeah, Nolan Gardner. Uh, question. I've heard it stated several times there's more deer killed on the five-day hunt than the nine-day hunt. And this is the third year that I've asked this question and I've never got it answered. When you did the study what was the buck to doe ratio on the nine-day. I don't know how we can make that statement without. Like the five-day we know, at least on the Pine Valley we had 25 bucks per 100 does, 22 bucks per 100 does. Now when we had the nine-day it got down to 5,6 bucks per 100 does. I just don't understand you coming up with that equation without at least giving us the number of the buck to doe ratio on the unit you tested. Thank you.

Anis Aoude: Okay, and to clarify that's the number of bucks harvested per 1,000 hunters. It has nothing to do with the buck to doe ratio; because the buck to doe ratio doesn't depend on uh- - - it can vary because of other reasons. You know if the buck to doe ratio was higher to begin with it will be higher after if you harvested the same amount. So that's why we didn't take that into the calculation. I don't have the information with me now what the buck to doe ratios were. And it wasn't a study; it was our annual harvest data that we collect every year that showed that. So we still collect that data annually and it still shows how many deer were harvested per 1,000 hunters.

Steve Flinders: One thing I might add, real briefly here as we're discussing this, the five-day hunt, there's different five-day hunts. If you start that hunt on Saturday it's a different animal then if you start it on Sunday. And this year we've had a different five-day hunt because we started it on a Wednesday. And uh, I know nothing about the Pine Valley unit, but on the Manti unit one year we had a five-day hunt, it started on Saturday. The buck to doe ratio went up in the fall; we thought phenomenal. We found something that works. And then we got the harvest data and it went up too. So it all was (unintelligible) out by production that year on the Manti. Any other questions from the public? We'll move on to comment cards.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: Wade Heaton. We need an agenda item. Am I assuming landowner association or CWMU?

(Unknown): No, this next (unintelligible) this is bucks and bulls.

Steve Flinders: Okay. Let's start with Ben Louder and Brian Johnson to back him up. Three minutes.

Ben Louder: My name is Ben Louder. I am here representing the Utah Bowman's Association tonight. In addition to that I also served on the statewide archery committee, so I'd like to comment from that angle as well. UBA would like to show our support tonight for the Division's recommendations to go back to statewide archery. In addition to that we also support the Division's recommendation to issue those 1,500 over the counter youth archery deer permits. And also concerning shortening the archery deer hunt, we would recommend that we keep it the length that it currently is. Concerning statewide archery, as I stated I sat on the statewide archery committee. We had some very good discussion. We had representatives from around the state. We had three representatives from the Southern Region right here. And what we found was that we pretty much all agreed; there's crowding in every region. There are hot spot areas in every region. You go to the Northern Region and look at the Monty Cristo; it's a heavy hunted area. You know the Central Region is the Strawberry area. Southeastern Region, Manti, Skyline Drive, Abaho Mountains and so forth. And of course you guys know that there are some hot spots down here in the Southern Region as well. However as Anis showed if you break it down huntable acres, public huntable acres per archer the Southern Region is the least crowded region in the state. And I did a little bit of number crunching; if we were to go back to pick your region for the archery hunt or allocate the numbers based on huntable acres, public huntable acres per hunter, we would actually end up sending over 2,000 extra bow hunters to the Southern Region above and beyond what is currently coming here right now. I know there's at least one of the Southern Region reps here tonight and I'll let him comment a little bit further on the Southern Region feelings about that. But some of what came up was we found this year where for the first three weekends you were forced to go to the region that you picked. The Southern Region was seeing a lot of people that picked the Southern Region come down and hunt the first weekend, the second weekend, the third weekend whereas in prior years they would come down and hunt the first weekend and they'd go home and they wouldn't come back. And so there's been a lot of comment from people in the Southern Region that they would rather see statewide archery because then the hunters will come down for the first weekend, they'll go home and they won't come back. Anyway, so again from the Utah Bowman's Association and the statewide archery committee we recommend going back to statewide archery. And if there's any questions from the RAC or the public concerning the statewide archery committee I'd be willing to comment on those as well. Go ahead.

Steve Flinders: Sam's got one for ya.

Sam Carpenter: On this committee that we formed, I believe I'm one of them that recommended that we do form a committee and do take a look at this. One of the questions I'd have is what kind of diversity did you have on there? Is this just all archers? Did you bring other hunters in, muzzle-load, rifle representatives, bring them into the picture, or was this just strictly archers?

Ben Louder: We had a member of the Wildlife Board, we had two representatives from Utah Bowman's

Association, two representatives from Bow Hunters of Utah, three representatives from the Southern Region, and one representative from the Southeastern Region. And I believe that's it, Anis, is that correct?

Sam Carpenter: And these are all archer's, true?

Ben Louder: These were all archers.

Sam Carpenter: Okay.

Ben Louder: Concerning that, um, again back to the if we allocate tags based on number of archers per, or number of huntable acres per archer we'd end up sending more archers here to the Southern Region than are already coming here. So I don't see why addressing your comment about uh, or issue with the muzzle-loader and the rifle hunters, I can't see how they would . . .

Sam Carpenter: Well you're making recommendations on what to do with the hunt and you ...

Ben Louder: Right. My point is I can't see why a rifle hunter or a muzzle-loader would want to see more archers come to the Southern Region.

Sam Carpenter: No, but I don't either. We can agree (unintelligible).

Ben Louder: Which is what would probably have to happen if we go back to pick your region.

Steve Flinders: Another question?

Sam Carpenter: Yes. Let me continue on. When you talk huntable acres exactly what criteria are you looking at as a huntable acre?

Ben Louder: I'll let Anis address that.

Steve Flinders: Just public land, deer habitat.

Sam Carpenter: And that includes winter range.

Anis Aoude: Some winter range, yeah.

Sam Carpenter: Because I tried to put together these acreage that you used to classify this for hunting and wow, you know. I can see why you come out with that ratio but I certainly don't agree with it. I think it's much less.

Anis Aoude: Okay.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions? Thanks Ben. Brian, followed by Lee Tracy.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson. I live in Southern Region, Cedar City. First I want to tell you members of the RAC thanks for serving. I know it's a big time constraint. And I realize after serving on just the one

committee it's something that if you love doing it's something you're willing to do and I appreciate you guys sitting on that RAC. The other thing is I had the opportunity to sit on that statewide archery committee and I talked to a lot of guys in Cedar City and they were all; yeah get these dang guys from up north off my mountain. And I talked to them and I show them these numbers and I say they're going to put more hunters - - - this is before the hunt starts - - - they're going to put more people down here. And they say, well no don't do that. And I go, okay. I talked to one guy that still - - - I mean I talk to a lot of guys - - - If anybody knows me here I talk a lot. And uh, so I talked to a lot of guys about it. And there was still one guy that said, hey I still want to see the choose your area. And I brought this guy up and we talked about this one guy for probably 30 minutes during this statewide committee about what we could do to help this one - - - I mean we spent 30 minutes of time with seven guys sitting there talking about one guy. So we tried as hard as we could to try - - - I mean I tried as hard as I could to get as many different takes. I talked to bow hunters, muzzle-loader hunters and rifle hunters. And I took my position very serious about it. And basically the take that I got was once that they come down to the Southern Region - - - and I saw this for myself because I pulled over every truck I could find up there, asked them where they were from and why they hunted down here. And there were quite a few, I'm not going to say how many because I didn't keep track, but there were quite a few guys the second and third weekend that came down here, came down again because they had to. Didn't matter what the gas prices were; these people are going to find a way to hunt. Bow hunters are passionate. They are going to sell their kids to do it. I've seen, it's crazy. These people are nuts. And so they're going to find a way. If you force them to spend 30 days or 25 days or whatever the hunt is, 28 days to hunt, they're going to keep coming back to the area they can do it. And so I think the weekend flood is worth the sacrifice to keep them out of here later. And I'd also like to say the recommendations of starting the hunt in 2011 during the week - - - one thing that we did find - - - if I run out of time give me a one minute warning here - - - but the one thing that we found is if it were to start on a Wednesday the one thing you run into on the bow hunt is that's the last weekend you can go camping with your family before school starts. And so a lot of guys that are outdoorsy they do that. They go and they go and they camp that last weekend because it's, that's the last big show before school starts, before a lot of other things happen with football and everything else. So if the hunt starts on a Wednesday, I look forward to that just to see what the actual pressure is on the mountain of bow hunters on the opener day. That's my one minute or I'm done? Do you have a question for me?

Steve Flinders: Thanks Brian.

Sam Carpenter: Can I ask a question?

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I know we got time constraints. I keep hearing it brought up that whatever it was that we were going to do was going to increase the number of hunters in the Southern. What is it that you're talking about when you say that, when you make that statement?

Brian Johnson: When I say if you divide the hunters up by huntable acres, by definition of the Division, then more hunters will go to the south because they'll allocate more tags to the south, per huntable acre.

Sam Carpenter: So you're trying to set some kind of a standard where we're going to start telling hunters they have certain acreage they can hunt? And by having more acreage we're going to have more hunters? I'm not sure I understand.

Brian Johnson: Just to make it socially even. If you have one hunter with 700 acres of huntable land and to make that even throughout the state you would have to have more hunters hunt in the Southern Region than what's currently hunting here to make it even. And that's according to the data that we were supplied by the Division.

Steve Flinders: We are talking about the logical conclusion of making people choose. We're carving up the state to make archers choose.

Sam Carpenter: In order to do that though people would have to choose where they're going to hunt.

Brian Johnson: Absolutely.

Steve Flinders: And we don't have a proposal (unintelligible).

Brian Johnson: Well that's what I'm saying, is we, we basically, the consensus I got was let's go back to statewide. Let them come down here for a Saturday, Sunday and then send them home.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Brian. Lee Tracey followed by Ken Sponaugle.

Lee Tracy: Here's a prospective maybe you haven't thought of, I live in Cedar City, actually Enoch. I'm retired so it's not a big issue to me but those who work, I know there's a lot of my friends during the archery season go up on the mountain after work. If I don't, if I don't draw a southern tag there's no way in hell that I could get up here to Richfield, a two hour drive after work, and hunt for what, fifteen minutes. This is one problem. If we start allocating the number of tags that are available to each region and I don't happen to draw my region I'm screwed.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Lee. I'm going to try this name, Ken Sponaugle. Followed by Greg McGregor.

Ken Sponaugle: Close. Ken Sponaugle from Circleville. Earlier this fall I received a survey from the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Natural Resources. And there was a proposal in there for the elk hunt for 2011 to do away with the spike hunt and the premium bull hunts and just go to a straight any bull hunt, and have a late and a, it had the three seasons, early, late and a mid season hunt. But hunt for any bull, no more spikes. And their proposal was that about every three years you should draw a bull tag. And if you're unlucky like me you probably never would draw one in your lifetime. So I really think that's not a good idea because the way it's going right now with the spike hunt and then a chance to draw for a big bull - - - even though you wait several years as you're doing now - - you still have a better chance because if they open that up to any bull in about three to five years I don't think there will be a big record bull left in the state. They will all be killed. And part of that would go to, the bigger part of it opens everything up for all of these guided hunts and stuff. And that's all they're going to concentrate on. They're not going to be looking for any kind of hunt other than the record bull and eventually we're not going to have any big bulls. It will be like some of these other states, Colorado namely, that you never see any big bulls come out of Colorado. They're all rag horns. So and there was another thing in there that sounded like California; talking about doing away with lead bullets for big game hunt and go to something like copper, or some other alloy, and do away with lead shot, period. And they're proposing, this was a proposal that was in this survey that I was given for the 2011 elk hunt. And I think that would be really detrimental to the whole state as far as our hunting goes because as far

as I know Utah has got the best elk in the country. So . . . thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thanks for filling out that survey. The Division will use that also in the preparation of their elk management plan. So thanks for going through that. Greg.

Greg McGregor: Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, we appreciate your attendance and I'm sure you appreciate our attendance here this evening also. Reciprocating feelings here. Greg McGregor, Santa Clara, Utah; representing the Dixie Chapter of Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. Pardon me if I read most of this. I feel like there's some important information in here. Most of you, I believe, I got copies of those. I distributed it before the meeting so if you have any questions you can refer to that. This communication is intended to address potential issues that may surface as a result of the Pine Valley unit or any other unit in the state now being included as a nine-day general any weapon deer hunt. As you may recall the Pine Valley unit has been a five-day any weapon hunt now for the last eight to ten years. We as sportsman have lobbied for the five-day hunt because most of the deer in this area end up in a very condensed area even before the hunt begins as determined by weather and then added pressure from opening weekend hunters. The area where the deer gravitate to does not have a lot of cover. There have been several major fires there over the last several years. And it is quite accessible to hunters resulting in an extreme amount of deer being harvested that second weekend of hunting. In most instances it is a general slaughter out there. A little history; the year before this unit was hunted the five-day season, the buck/doe ratio was 5 to 100. Within a couple of years of going to the five-day season the ratio catapulted to up to around 25 to 100. For the past few years the ratio has leveled off to the 17 to 18 per 100 range. The nine-day season in most instances will kill that. We've been given a reprieve this year because we didn't get any weather. The deer stayed scattered out and they didn't get condensed. So this year we feel like is an anomaly. It just didn't happen this year, at least for people the slaughter out there. We realize that the management plan calls for a nine-day season when the buck/doe ratio falls below the 15 to 100 plateau. But we also understand that that has to happen for a three-year period of time, an average. Okay? The reason I got up and asked the question about when the buck to doe ratio was calculated is because this information it doesn't do any good for this buck/doe ratio with this hunt has already occurred this year it doesn't go to the Board, the RACs and the Board for this year. It won't get implemented until 2011. Okay? It's too late. We also feel the plan is inherently flawed because after a three year period of time that the deer may reach a point of no return. Everything that the sportsmen in this area have worked for over the past ten years may be thrown out the window in one year. It is also flawed in this round of RAC meetings and subsequent Wildlife Board meeting will determine next year's hunting regulations. The season dates will have already been determined as of this evening, or by Wildlife Board time before the post-season deer counts can be considered. If the Pine Valley unit gets hammered this year next year's hunt will have already taken place before the RACs and Wildlife Board convene to address bucks and bulls issues next November. So not only do the deer have to withstand a three year average period of time they have to wait an additional year for their plight to be considered. The deer deserve better than this. Thrown into the mix and deserving equal consideration is the hunter opportunity issue. It is imperative that the hunter recruitment, especially youth, be maximized or our support base will slowly dwindle to a point where we will have no voice. The youth deserve to participate in a two-weekend hunt. In order to preserve the integrity of the Pine Valley unit and maximize youth recruitment and hunting opportunity this is what we propose: We propose a five-day any weapon hunt for those permit holders who are 19 and older. Now the age isn't critical here. It could be 16, it could be 18, whatever. Nine-day any weapon for all youth permit holders 18 and younger. In other words a five-day hunt for adults, a nine-day hunt for youth, implemented into the 2010 hunting proclamation to cover next fall's hunts, or at least be able to put into action if this

year's post season counts dip below the 15 to 100 buck to doe ratio. I don't know how that can be accomplished but it needs to be considered. And that also could be addressed when the numbers are addressed in March. Is it March when the numbers are set? But I don't know if that happens on a region wide basis. The true sportsmen in this state have worked hard to preserve this resource. Let's not the letter of the law perform an injustice by trumping the spirit of the law. Build it and they will come certainly applies to our wildlife resources. In years past it took many months to sell those statewide archery tags and now they sell out in just a few days. We are well into the building process, let's not regress just because management plans tell us to do something contrary to what makes sense. Let's do the right thing. Thanks for your time. Any questions?

Steve Flinders: Thanks Greg.

Greg McGregor: Yes Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I'm sorry. Are you, in this proposition you make, is this just the southern unit you're talking about here or are you talking about statewide?

Greg McGregor: Particularly for us that live in the Pine Valley area that, we feel like that here is, we care for that herd. We go out we build guzzlers. We care; they're in our backyard. But I think it certainly could apply to a lot of these other units that go to five-day. They don't get addressed in time, it's a three-year average. They don't get addressed and it can't be corrected for a year, almost two years after the error has been made known. So that's what I'm saying.

Sam Carpenter: So are you making a presentation to the other RACs with this same (unintelligible)?

Greg McGregor: This was sent out to the other RACs. Yes it was.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Greg.

Greg McGregor: Thanks for your time. Chad Nowers, followed by Braden Richmond. Chad I got two cards here. Are you going to change hats?

Chad Nowers: Well I just had two proposals I wanted to (unintelligible).

Steve Flinders: You got five minutes. Beaver Wildlife Federation.

Chad Nowers: Yeah, Chad Nowers, Beaver Wildlife Federation. We're also affiliated with SFW. Number one I'd like to echo Mr. McGregor's deal on the Pine Valley going the nine-day for the youth and the five-day for the adults. Also, if they do it for that region due to the fact that we get over run with those people in our areas for the second weekend we would like to go region wide with that proposal of the five-day for the general and, or for the adults and nine-day for the youth. And also, SFW is proposing it for the Southeast as well because they would like to stay the same way, mainly because we feel that the deer, we've seen improvement in the bucks, in the quality of bucks, the number of bucks; and we feel that's been as a direct result of the five-day season for general rifle. I don't like giving up my days of hunt either. But if I can give up a few days and go out there and see some four points or bigger rather than forked horns or spikes I would rather do that. That's what we would like to see done. Now do you want me to talk about the second card?

Steve Flinders: Sure, go ahead.

Chad Nowers: The second card is in consensus with a number of the people around Beaver area we would like to propose making another limited entry unit in the Mineral Mountain range. And that would start where 21 goes off to Milford. It goes around to Milford and up the back way to Delta. Cut off at the Black Rock Road back to I-15 and back down to Beaver. It's relatively small but there's a lot of deer in that area that winter and summer in that range. And we feel that that could be a real awesome limited entry unit and the overflow could help the units all around it. But this time we've talked about this through the years but at this time we'd like to see it implemented and really looked into and see if we could do that. And uh I think it could be a real advantage if we look at that area to do that. Thank you for your time, appreciate it.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Braden. I got two cards from you too. You got five minutes if you can give it all to us.

Braden Richmond: Yeah, no problem. I'll keep it under five minutes. Braden Richmond. First card I wanted to represent the Utah SFW Board. We just wanted to ask and go along with the Dixie Chapter. We'd like to see a recommendation to go back to a five-day hunt in Southern and Southeastern Region. Have five-days being for 19 and older, nine-days for 18 and younger for the youth. We'd like to ask that be considered. And then my other card was me personal. I'd like to just once again support the statewide archery hunt. I don't see any evidence of the overcrowding. It seems like we're going to be more crowding if we get away from that statewide. Also, as far as shortening the days on it I don't understand that when the archers have the lowest success ratio and kills. Anis already said there's no biological evidence to support that. I can't understand why we're even discussing it quite honestly. And then also, interesting because I've been talking with a bunch of people around Beaver, Minersville, Milford, the locals around Beaver about this Mineral Mountain limited entry hunt, just kind of talking about it. And I got here tonight and hear Chad propose this so I'm excited. I'd like to second that proposal. I had no idea that someone else is even talking about it. And Chad said he's been pushing that for several years now. So I'd love to see that go through. I think it's a great opportunity. We have plenty of area around there for all the locals to hunt and I think it would actually help our deer herds grow and get some bigger bucks spread across those boundary lines as they moved off. I think it would be a really good unit to look at. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Tony Western.

Tony Western: I didn't know if you were going to have time for me or not. But just a small area down south of Monroe, we had a real shootout there at the beginning of the rifle season. Shooting across roads, shooting out in the fields with the beginning of that rifle hunt. There's not a place out there you can shoot a rifle without crossing the road. And uh, there was one that, there's some nice trees just west of my house and I sat there and watched the bucks and the deer with my spotting scope and opening two hours people all over the place, whether it was posted or not, they chased them across the road and shot them out behind the houses. We're a little concerned about our safety down there. So wish you'd look at it and that's about all I got then.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Did you phone the Division of Wildlife or a conservation?

Tony Western: Oh yeah we had them right there. The guy that got the biggest buck shot it right out behind the house there and then he put his wife's tag on it. And he didn't get a ticket for that. The Fish and Game checked him out. So you might look into that.

Steve Flinders: Huh.

Tony Western: But he was right there. I talked to him. We had lots of calls. It's not a safe area.

Steve Flinders: Well I'm sure we'll have some folks that want to follow up with ya.

Tony Western: I just moved in there; I'd like to live a few more years. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Wade Heaton. The last comment card I've got for this agenda item.

Wade Heaton: Just a quick minute, I've been hunting down on the Paunsagaunt muzzle-loader hunt all week and I just wanted to give you guys an update. I met last night with a bunch of hunters and guides that have been hunting the area for years. And we talked a lot about the quality of what we'd been seeing this last week. And I just want you guys to know that it was unanimous, everyone felt like they had seen and were killing better deer than they have in years. And uh, I think it's good that you guys get feedback. That's a direct result of the decisions that you guys have made in the last three or four years and I just want to thank you for that. Oh sorry, I didn't say, Wade Heaton, I'm representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. Sorry Natalie. As Friends of the Paunsagaunt we just want to support the Division's recommendation that we move the muzzle-loader hunt forward to the last week in September. We want to thank the Division. We've got a great working relationship down there. The lines of communication are excellent. And I think we've done some great things on the Paunsagaunt. I think it's important that we at least reflect on that just a little bit. And so anyway, from the Friends of the Paunsagaunt we definitely want to support their recommendation and move that hunt up. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Wade. All right that will close the public comment for this agenda item. We'll move on to RAC comments and ultimately motions.

Comments from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: A lot of talk about statewide archery hunt and youth opportunity, five-day on the Pine Valley, five-day in the region. And some support for the Paunsagaunt season change. Any comments up here? Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I kind of have a question. How would this proposal with the nine-day youth, five-day general public affect DWR and their enforcement?

Steve Flinders: Question for Doug probably.

Douglas Messerly: I think there are really 2 questions there Sam. One is how would it affect the enforcement, and the second is how would it distribute pressure. That was mentioned by one of the commentators from the public. Our experience in the past with having the Pine Valley five-day only on its own is that the other units receive a lot of pressure; the surrounding units receive a lot of pressure.

You have to remember that Washington County is the most heavily populated area in the Southern Region and those people want to hunt the second weekend if they can, and so they'll go find a place to go and it will be the Beaver, the Panguitch, most likely not the Zion because it's such a private land unit, but the Southwest Desert also took a big hit the last time we did this. In terms of enforcement effort we learned again this year that when we make a change with regard to season dates on a unit basis it is very costly in terms of the effort that we have to put on that unit to address those enforcement issues. And we engage in signing activities. We engage in patrolling areas where there are no hunters when I really need those officers where there are hunters; if that makes sense. Because in order to protect the closed areas I have to send people, send officers there to patrol where hopefully there are no hunters. And at the same time I've got calls going outside in the areas where there are hunters. So it's problematic but it is doable. We've done it in the past and we get by the best we can.

Sam Carpenter: Ok so if it was region wide it would be much easier for you to deal with as opposed to just the Pine Valley?

Douglas Messerly: Certainly.

Steve Flinders: Comments, discussion up here. Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I think last year we kind of discussed this same thing about leaving one unit five-days and the rest of the Southern Region nine-days. This is just my opinion, we either have five-days or we have nine-days. We do not have one area five-days, the rest of them nine-days, except for the areas that don't have any deer in them. That's just my comment.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Cordell. Other comments? Go ahead Clair.

Clair Woodbury: A couple of them Steve. Addressing Chad. Hi Chad, it's good to see you again. On the Mineral Mountain, as a representative of the general public I would strongly oppose that. Any time we close an area other areas get a lot more pressure. The nine-day and the youth, the data doesn't follow a five-day hunt saving more deer than a nine-day hunt. And that's all I've got.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Yeah, anybody else want to comment before we ? Sam's ready to get with the show. You're good.

RAC discussion and vote:

Sam Carpenter: Okay. I'd like to make a motion that we accept the proposal as presented with the exception of the Southern Region going to this nine-day youth, five-day hunt.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Sam. Does that motion make sense to you Natalie? Bucks and bulls as presented with the exception that the Southern Region be five-day, with a nine-day youth.

Steve Dalton: I'll second that motion.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Steve Dalton. Comments, discussion on the motion? Go ahead Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Sam I love ya to death. We agree on almost everything, that's a terrible proposal.

Why we need to do something special for the youth only . . . the youth want to go hunt with dad. You know if dad quits hunting the youth quits hunting. Dad doesn't have a tag, it's, and you know he's going to peter out. Let's stay with the nine-day hunt regular.

Steve Flinders: Other comments? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Well I've got some feedback over the last two or three weeks with the deer hunt going on. You know with the nine-day hunt you have a lot of people that only hunted only two or three days on a nine-day hunt. And some of the comments that I got were when it was a five-day hunt there was a ton of people that hunted all five days. They took those five days off. But with a nine-day hunt they came and they hunted the first weekend. If they didn't fill a tag or they was able to make it they came back and hunted maybe Saturday of the second weekend or Saturday and Sunday. So they only hunted three or four day versus five. So I mean I don't know that this is necessarily my feelings, this is just comments I've been getting from the public, is that the nine-day hunt is actually dispersing the pressure and spreading that pressure out and maybe not applying as much pressure as we were with the five-day hunt.

Steve Flinders: Okay. We've got a motion and a second. How about we call for a vote; everybody okay with that? In favor of the motion? And those opposed? Motion passes. Did you get the opposed votes? Is that five to two? Motion passes.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept as presented with the exception that the Southern Region go to 5 day hunt with a 9 day youth hunt. Steve Dalton seconded.

5 in favor 2 against, Layne Torgerson and Clair Woodbury against. Motion carries.

Steve Flinders: So we're done with agenda item number 5, as I read it. Thanks. Let's go to the Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment, Anis.

**Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment (action) 1:25:12 to 1:18:50 of 3:02:57
- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Steve Flinders: Thanks Anis. Any questions from RAC members?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Steve Flinders: No questions. Any questions from the public, about what Anis is proposing here to amend the deer management plan? I don't see any questions.

Questions from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: I've got a comment card from Wade Heaton. He's getting his exercise.

Comments from the public:

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton, representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. Likewise with this recommendation Friends of the Paunsagaunt support this. We appreciate what it's doing. This is going to help our goal as Friends of the Paunsagaunt to help increase the quality on the Paunsagaunt so we applaud the Division for what they're doing and support this recommendation. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Wade. Comments?

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Discussion from the RAC? Motion?

Steve Dalton: I'll make a motion we accept it as presented.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Steve.

Sam Carpenter: Second.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Sam. Any comments or discussion? Let's take a vote. Those that are in favor? Unanimous.

Steve Dalton made the motion to accept as presented, Sam Carpenter seconded. Unanimous.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Next agenda item, Boyd Blackwell.

CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment (action)

-Boyd Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator 1:20:35 to 1:26:57 of 3:02:57

Steve Flinders: Thank you Boyd. Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC (CWMU):

Steve Flinders: I'd like to ask the region a question probably Boyd, unless you remember last year Wade made a commitment, and I don't know if it was an associated CWMU or the landowner association.

Boyd Blackwell: They did. They made the commitment to take the ten percent reduction; if you'll recall back last year that the Paunsagaunt took a ten percent reduction overall. The CWMU also took an overall ten percent reduction as well.

Steve Flinders: Okay. Well maybe Teresa if she gets a chance can keep us on point. Any questions from RAC members? Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I noticed in the information we got in our packets that we did address the fact that the PLWA or the landowner association on the Paunsagaunt would take their cut this year. I didn't here you bring that up, that is part of this? Is it not true?

Boyd Blackwell: Well I'll do the Landowner Associations as soon as you do your action on the CWMUs.

Sam Carpenter: Separate. Oh all right, all right.

Steve Flinders: Sorry I wasn't clear on that Sam. Maybe we'll just take questions and comments and then we'll do Landowner Association stuff if you want. We'll see what, how much discussion . . . Any other questions about CWMUs? Question from the public on CWMUs around the state.

Questions from the public (CWMU):

Steve Flinders: Yes sir.

Lee Tracy: I have a question about the number of permits. Do they include the antlerless or doe permits or are they just bucks and bulls?

Steve Flinders: We need your name sir.

Lee Tracy: Sorry, Lee Tracy.

Steve Flinders: Thank you.

Boyd Blackwell: These are just bucks and bulls. We'll do the antlerless in April.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Boyd. Any other questions?

Comments from the public (CWMU):

Steve Flinders: I've got a comment card from Wade Heaton.

Wade Heaton: I wish I could say this was going to be like my last one but it's close. First I, Wade Heaton, Alton CWMU. I just want to thank the RAC, mainly because I feel like I show up here every year and beg and borrow and ask for things. I do appreciate what you guys do, I really do. You guys are providing a great service to the wildlife in the state. So I do appreciate you. And I apologize that out of 103 CWMUs I'm the only one that can't agree. But I feel like I've got a good reason, I promise. As you know we've got a buck to doe ratio issue on the Paunsagaunt. We've been over objective for several years. And the Division's recommended to increase permit numbers, trophy permit numbers and our little group kind of came up with an alternate suggestion to do this management hunt which starts on Saturday. And cross our fingers we hope it's going to be a big success. In doing that we hope we're going to correct this problem. It has been tradition and kind of the way we've done things in the past, any time the permits increase on the Paunsagaunt they increase on the CWMU and the LOAs. Any time they decrease on the Paunsagaunt they decrease some of the Landowner Associations, as we witnessed, I mean we did our 10 percent thing and are happy to do it. The CWMU wants to get on board with this management hunt. I feel like we're justified in asking for them simply for the fact that there are 50 new permits on the Paunsagaunt this year. And we're asking for what's traditionally, the CWMUs traditionally got approximately 10 percent of the permits for the whole Paunsagaunt. And so that's all

we're asking is five permits. Do our little part up there on the CWMU. And the Division their, I understand their concern, it's a new hunt, it's a new program, it's a new idea. And they're not sure it's going to work and I can understand that. But in order to fix our bucks to doe ratio, the only thing we have to do is kill bucks. I mean it's fairly simple, that can happen. We know we can kill bucks. And so to correct the problem these management hunts are a good idea, whether it's on the CWMU, wherever it is. And I just propose that on the CWMU there are some logistic questions and they're concerned you know just the manpower and everything else. Well the CWMU is a perfect location to administer these management hunts. We know we're going to kill the right kind of bucks. We know we're going to kill old bucks. They're all guided hunts; very controlled environment. The Division doesn't have to do anything. We will take each deer over and check it in at the Division office. They don't have to do anything. And it's very controlled and it will work. We know that on the CWMU, the system will work. We're going to find out next week if that will. Anyway I just propose that it's a perfect atmosphere, perfect situation to do these management hunts and all we're asking for is 5, and we'd like one of those to go into the public draw.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Wade. Have you offered management buck tags in the past?

Wade Heaton: We have done management bucks hunts with our trophy permits, and there was actually just a little window there where the Division did approve some management tags for us, it was an exception.

Steve Flinders: Way back when.

Wade Heaton: We were the only ones. It was about five, six, seven years ago. Teresa and I were talking about it the other day. But it was an exception; we were the only ones. Now we're the only CWMU inside a limited, or sorry, the only CWMU inside a premium limited entry unit, therefore we're the only ones that can ask for it in accordance with the plan and the management hunts on the other premium units.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Any questions? Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just for the record, Friends of the Paunsagaunt did back wane on this. And one question I have for you Wade is are you willing to cap this at five for at least the next three years if the permits go up on the unit as a whole?

Wade Heaton: You just put me on the spot Sam, come on.

Sam Carpenter: How many Friends of the Paunsagaunt reps do we have?

Wade Heaton: If it will help it get passed tonight, you bet.

Sam Carpenter: I think it will.

Steve Flinders: Teresa, could we get you to shed some light on this from a regional perspective please? Thanks Wade.

Teresa Bonzo: You know it's our recommendations we'd like to evaluate the management buck

program a little bit more before we start, before we consider issuing management buck to the CWMUs and then it will go to the LOA. And we actually, this came up several years ago when we had management bull. And we were approached by Landowner Associations at that time and we, you know, across the board said no they're not eligible, you know you've got your trophy tags. So we've kind of stood by no management tags for LOAs and CWMUs. Wade does make a good point with his checking in. But at this time we'd, if he wants to have some of his trophy tags as management tags, you know . . . They have 24 I believe, trophy tags. Dustin, do you want to add anything to that?

Steve Flinders: Thanks Teresa. RAC comments, discussion. Sure Layne.

RAC discussion and vote (CWMU):

Layne Torgerson: It's my understanding that these management buck tags, and I don't know who to address this to, these guys have to go through an orientation to receive the tags, is that correct Anis?

Anis Aoude: Yeah, yeah that is correct. Once they put in if they do draw this permit they don't receive their permit unless they've completed the online course.

Layne Torgerson: I haven't looked at that course, but I had a tag on the Paunsagaunt two or three years ago and there are lots and lots of 3x4 bucks down there, and some of those bucks are only two or three years old. Am I wrong Wade? So of those 50 permits - - - I guess my concern is, I know that the plan is to take older age bucks that are three point on one side.

Anis Aoude: That's the hope. And anytime you implement something like this there's always that chance that younger bucks are going to get killed. And when we were formulating this the Division was very clear to say that, and the committee still wanted to go forward with it. So it's one of those things where we're seeing how it works. I think it will work all right on these two units just because there are so many older age class bucks. I think the course is well designed and hopefully will get, we'll get hunters to harvest the right animal. Again, when you get a person out there with a gun they get excited, they may shoot anything. It's kind of hard to say. But we won't know until the data's in.

Steve Flinders: Anis, how many, how many, for clarification for us up here, how many management buck tags are there scheduled for this fall on the Paunsagaunt.

Anis Aoude: There are 50 on the Paunsagaunt and there are 10 on the Henrys.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just one comment, kind of answer some of what Lyle's asking over there. As we are actually providing a slug of guides and experienced people on the unit to help these people to try to take bucks that we're trying to target on this. Along the same lines a lot of these bucks that you're talking about, the two and three-year- old three points, they end up six and seven- year- old three points. They pretty much stay that way and we've seen a lot of that.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead, do you have a comment Paul?

Paul Briggs: I have a question. This is more of a question. Anis, refresh my memory weren't several of

these management permits targeted at youth? Or did we not approve that?

Anis Aoude: Yeah it is similar to what we did with the management bull. Yeah 60 percent are to the general public, well . . . 60-20-20 I think. Yeah, I don't remember the split, but yeah, 30 percent youth, 30 percent above 65, and then 40 percent to the general public.

Paul Briggs: Okay, so if we take 10 percent of those and give them to the CWMU how will we adjust that?

Anis Aoude: Well we won't. These will be additional permits. The 50 are already been in the drawing. Well and we don't know how many permits we'll be setting for next year. We still haven't done the, so these will be five that would go to the CWMU and we'll still set our permits based on our classifications that still have not happened yet. So for 2010 we don't know what the number will be. It was 50 this year. We don't know what it will be in 2010.

Paul Briggs: Right. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Any, go ahead Steve.

Steve Dalton: Yes, I just want to make a comment. I think 10 percent is fair. I think we should let the CWMU have 10 percent of those permits. You know, five more of those. I don't see a problem with that. It seems reasonable to me.

Steve Flinders: A total of five, with four and one to the public.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Wade.

Steve Flinders: Sure Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Wade, I know that you're out everyday looking at, I mean almost everyday. Are those bucks that are living there on the CWMU, what do you think the percentage of this class buck is in your herd right now?

Wade Heaton: My family thinks it is everyday. I would say just off the top of my head, the bucks we want to target like you mentioned, are the six, seven, eight, nine, ten-year-old bucks. And bucks that would fit into that category, I would like to think; we've got 20- 25 percent. I mean it's a significant number. And as you just mentioned on the Paunsagaunt that carries over into the public lands as well. There are a lot of these types of bucks. You know 55 permits, or whatever we're going to end up with next year, there's a lot of bucks to go around for those permits. And we need to get rid of as many as we can.

Steve Flinders: It's been a good discussion.

Sam Carpenter: I'd like to make a motion that we accept the proposal as presented and allow the CWMU, the Alton CWMU their 5 additional permits with a three year cap proposed.

Steve Flinders: To limit that to the next three years to be four and one?

Sam Carpenter: For the next three years, let's see how this goes. This is all new.

Steve Flinders: Four private and one public. Just to clarify.

Boyd Blackwell: Excuse me.

Steve Flinders: Yes Boyd.

Boyd Blackwell: That would be two years. And then we'll go through another application process. So it will be for 2010, 2011 and then for '12 we'll go through another three-year process.

Sam Carpenter: That sounds fair.

Steve Flinders: Well that work with your motion?

Sam Carpenter: Yes. I need to change that, the motion to two years then instead of three on the cap. Wade's smiling.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Sam.

Steve Dalton: I'll second that motion.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Steve Dalton. Have you got that okay Natalie? Awesome. Any discussion? We're ready for a vote then. All in favor? And any opposed? It looks like it was unanimous.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept as presented and allow the CWMUs to have 5 additional permits with a 2-year cap. Steve Dalton seconded. Unanimous.

Steve Flinders: Well we handled that separately Boyd. With so much meat in there, let's do Landowner Association.

CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment (action)

-Boyd Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator (LOAs) 1:41:30 to 1:45:09 of 3:02:57

Boyd Blackwell: Are you ready to go? Yeah, that was a big one. Okay, the Landowner Associations for this coming year.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Boyd. Any questions from RAC members? Questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC (LOA):

Steve Flinders: I've got one Boyd. There's always a lag in, because these recommendations go through in the fall. We've now changed permit recommendation for bucks and bulls to the spring so there's a lag when we make a change.

Boyd Blackwell: Yeah, we're always working for CWMUs and landowner associations, it's just always been that way that we work from behind and then we can make the adjustment the following year. There's no way around that because of the time period that we do these.

Steve Flinders: Unless you're changing time period.

Boyd Blackwell: Right. Yeah. And if that happens we're more than happy to try and accommodate that. But at this point in time we haven't had any problems with this situation; we've been able to keep up. It's usually only a percentage, barely a percentage or two of permit changes and we get that annually.

Steve Flinders: Great. Any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public (LOA):

None

Steve Flinders: Comments from the public? I don't have any comment cards specific to landowner associations.

Comments from the Public (LOA):

None

Steve Flinders: So we'll move to discussion or potential motion.

RAC discussion and vote (LOA):

Steve Flinders: I take it rather strongly when we don't have representation from the landowner association at the RAC meeting when there is a difference or a split. Sure Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I'll make a motion that we approve DWR's presentation.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Cordell.

Steve Dalton: I'll second it.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Steve. Any more discussion? All in favor? Any opposed? Looks unanimous.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept as presented, Steve Dalton seconded. Unanimous.

Boyd Blackwell: One more item.

Steve Flinders: What's that?

Boyd Blackwell: That's the change in recommended change in wording on the CWMU rule.

Steve Flinders: Let's see it.

CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment (action)

-Boyd Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator (CWMU voucher donation to charitable cause) 1:47:03 to 1:48:35 of 3:02:57

Steve Flinders: Okay, and it's only for the following, from the following year?

Boyd Blackwell: Right.

Steve Flinders: One year.

Boyd Blackwell: Yeah.

Steve Flinders: Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC (Rule Amendment):

Layne Torgerson: Boyd I need you to clarify one thing for me.

Boyd Blackwell: Yes sir.

Layne Torgerson: If it's donated to a charitable cause, whatever that is, you know, I mean Primary Childrens Hospital, whatever, can that voucher be used to raise money for that cause? I mean the way that's reading it says may not sell, trade, auction or barter the donated CWMU voucher.

Boyd Blackwell: No they couldn't raise money with it. It would go to somebody's that uh . . .

Layne Torgerson: Make a wish or something like that.

Boyd Blackwell: Right.

Layne Torgerson: Some kid that needed it, that wanted, that's never hunted elk and we got this voucher and we're going to take this kid elk hunting.

Boyd Blackwell: Correct, yes.

Layne Torgerson: Okay, all right.

Steve Flinders: Good question Layne. Any questions from the public? Lee Tracy.

Questions from the Public (Rule Amendment):

Lee Tracy: Who determines, what's a charitable cause and who determines what is? You know some

anti-hunting group may want to snag that voucher and never use it.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, any 501.C3 according to that rule.

Layne Torgerson: Yeah, I mean it's got to be a 501.3C organization, like I mentioned, like Make A Wish or American Cancer Society or something along those lines.

Steve Flinders: Another question? Go ahead. Give us your name please.

Jason Anderson: Jason Anderson. I'm just local here. The comment I had was I'm part of the chairman's committee for the Elk Foundation banquet that we have here locally. And a CWMU here kind of in this local area they actually gave us a permit for their unit for a five-day buck deer hunt. I don't want to say the name because this sounds like we'd get them in trouble. I don't know what the rules were last year but this surely doesn't follow it. Because we ended up using that tag as an auction item at the banquet. So I think it was a great thing that that CWMU did, you know, to help out the Elk Foundation banquet. So I see that could hinder some things.

Layne Torgerson: I've studied this. Well the reason I had those questions because I studied this a little Boyd. It's my understanding that if a CWMU or a Landowner Association has a tag that is used in that year, if he has an '09 tag and we auction it off in April of '09 and it's used in that year it does not fall under these guidelines.

Boyd Blackwell: Correct.

Steve Flinders: Does that make sense? That's an important designation. If they're unused from the previous year and they're no longer merchandisable really. Any other questions from the public? I don't have any comment cards.

Comments from the Public (Rule Amendment):

None

Steve Flinders: Ready for RAC discussion. Motion.

RAC discussion and vote (Rule Amendment):

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Layne.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the presentation from the DWR.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by . . . I saw Clair. Natalie. Any more discussion? All in favor? Any opposed? It was unanimous.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept as presented, Clair Woodbury seconded. Unanimous.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Boyd. Let's do one more agenda item before we take a break. Let's go into the Moose Management Plan.

Moose Management Plan (action) 1:52:43 to 2:00:40 of 3:02:57
-Kent Hersey, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Steve Flinders: Thanks very much. Any questions from the RAC on the presentation?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public about the management plan for moose?

Questions from the public:

None

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

Comments from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: Discussion, motion from the RAC?

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: You can jump to it.

Clair Woodbury: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the moose management plan as presented.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Motion by Clair, seconded by Layne. All in favor? Unanimous.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept as presented, Layne Torgerson seconded. Unanimous.

Steve Flinders: Let's take a short 10 minute break and come back with the informational item, 2011 Bucks and Bulls Hunt Structure.

2011 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Hunt Structure (informational) 2:02:31 to 2:14:59 of 3:02:57
-Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Steve Flinders: Thanks Anis. That's a good presentation and seems to be pretty well thought out. There's a lot of information there and a lot of dramatic changes versus what system we have now. Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Where to begin? We might uh . . . Start down there Layne, go ahead.

Layne Torgerson: Anis, if I understood you correctly can you under this proposal, or this proposed plan, could a guy have an early season elk tag and a late season deer tag in the same year?

Anis Aoude: That's correct. Yep.

Layne Torgerson: He would just have to apply for those permits.

Anis Aoude: Right. And draw those as well.

Steve Flinders: Anybody else down there?

Steve Dalton: Yeah, Anis are you going to present this next year for an action item then, the way it stands right now? Or are you just asking for input?

Anis Aoude: No it's just asking or input. We, like I said, probably three or four times in the presentation, this is just the first step. It could morph into a whole different recommendation by the time it comes back this time next year.

Steve Dalton: Okay, thank you.

Steve Flinders: We're going to see . . . So you guys know we're going to see quite a bit of public comment and depending on that we may want to form a few motions just to be helpful to the Wildlife Board. Do you have a question Paul?

Paul Briggs: Yeah. Anis, you said over all that this would reduce the pressure. Do you have an estimate of how many days, what would the time (unintelligible)?

Anis Aoude: We probably, as far as season lengths go we'd probably be reducing them by about ten days into November. We usually hunt until about the middle or late, yeah about the middle part of November. So we would reduce them probably five to ten days, depending on how it ends up. You know there's still some movement that can happen. But on this currently you're probably reducing into November quite a bit.

Paul Briggs: Okay and then switching gears on that a little bit if you will, would it increase the opportunity for big game hunters in the state or would that stay fairly static?

Anis Aoude: Well it's hard to say. It won't increase the opportunity as far as number of tags. Is that what you're asking? We won't know how that will . . . Probably not. I think it will increase, you know, the flexibility of when people can hunt. I don't think it's going to increase the opportunity that much as far as permit numbers, because you know our deer numbers are fairly capped and our elk numbers could increase potentially if we see harvest success decrease. So there is a potential on elk more than there is on deer.

Paul Briggs: Okay. I'm not so much worried about permit numbers; maybe switch it over to days in the field or the opportunity for more . . .

Anis Aoude: Yeah, I mean there could be. I guess what it does is it gives those people who don't have a lot of time to hunt both species at the same time more than providing more time out in the field. It will probably condense people's time in the field more than increase it because those people that have time constraints, and right now have to pick do I hunt elk, do I hunt deer, can possibly hunt both at the same time and have a greater chance of harvesting one or the other.

Paul Briggs: Ok so I guess what I hear you say that depending on your situation you can look at that as an increased opportunity.

Anis Aoude: Right, yeah, exactly. Yeah. Right now you have to pick whether you hunt deer and elk. Under this if you only have five days to hunt you can hunt both, potentially.

Steve Flinders: Jump into this Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just a quick question Anis. With the split hunt how would you handle dedicated hunters? Are they going to be able to apply for whichever one they want, and they're going to be able to get it if we're on that?

Anis Aoude: That's going to be a conversation still to be had. We haven't really sat out what we will do. From the comment I've been getting they'll probably, we'll probably going to suggest them picking early or late on the rifle hunt. So either they hunt early or they hunt late. They will have to pick like they pick their region.

Sam Carpenter: But no quotas on, the fact they could all go to late and that will displace a whole lot of people that want to apply for that tag. So it's going to be a problem.

Anis Aoude: Yeah. That's certainly a conversation we'll have to have.

Sam Carpenter: Lifetime holders as well I guess.

Anis Aoude: Yeah, yeah.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions up here?

Layne Torgerson: I have one.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Layne.

Layne Torgerson: For some reason I have lots of questions tonight. General season elk combined with the deer, when we say general season elk we're talking about spike units, or any bull units, correct?

Anis Aoude: That's correct.

Layne Torgerson: So under the 2009 format that we've just completed, those guys could hunt deer and elk on a spike unit or wherever. . . . I see . . .

Anis Aoude: Yeah if they had a spike unit tag they could only hunt deer on, well they'd have to leave that unit if they wanted to hunt deer on a different. Yeah, right. Right. Yeah, they would have to think about where they want to hunt before they put in for their permit.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions? I have one question Anis about the Northern Region combined deer and elk hunt. Just a thumbnail sketch of what we've learned up there, that's been around a number of years.

Anis Aoude: Right, what we learned there is that people like hunting both species together. Most of the comments we get from that, from those surveys have been positive as far as being able to hunt deer and elk together. Now that one's a little bit different because you have to get a permit for both. So, but people seem to like it, the ones that do choose to do that. But they're choosing to do that so it's kind of . . . Of course if they already chose to do that they're probably going to enjoy doing it.

Steve Flinders: Any dramatic increases in buck survival or?

Anis Aoude: No harvest really hasn't changed all that much. Yeah.

Steve Flinders: Really? Any other questions? Seeing none, questions from the public. If we can stick to questions for a minute then we'll move on to comments in a minute.

Questions from the public:

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy. How would this affect the second choices and the preference points?

Anis Aoude: Could you clarify that? I'm not sure what you meant.

Lee Tracy: Well you said, you know, if you want to pick a deer season you pick early or late. If I don't get the early one then that means I don't get the late one either or what?

Anis Aoude: Yeah. You basically you know you could put first choice first deer season, second choice second deer season. So if you don't draw the first you could draw the second unless you really wanted to hunt the first or nothing; and similarly with elk.

Lee Tracy: One more question. Are there any plans to solicit information from the public in any more formal way than maybe the RACs or whatever?

Anis Aoude: Yeah and I did mention that briefly in my presentation; we are going to have kind of an online way of getting comment where people that go on our website can click on a link and go and look at it. And we're also looking at doing a formal survey, as well, where we send the information out and ask people to comment on it formally, which would be a random survey where you send it to a sub sample so we could get information both ways. And that will probably happen late winter, mid to late winter, when we're starting to formulate what we're going to do next year.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions from the public? Moving on to comment cards. John Keeler, followed by Mike Torgerson.

Comments from the public:

John Keeler: John Keeler with the Utah Farm Bureau. We see some real potential problems for this early hunt, early October with the livestock coming off the mountain and hunters out. It looks like a disaster that could occur there. This is one of the concerns we had when the legislation was changed to allow some flexibility in the opening day. We were told at the time that it just, they needed the flexibility to move a few days one way or the other; but this is way too early, this early hunt, and we've got livestock coming off the mountain. And the potential safety issues for vehicles and livestock and then livestockmen and their families out gathering cattle when people are out shooting, we see this as a real potential conflict. We would be opposed to the early hunt.

Steve Flinders: Thanks John. Mike Torgerson, if he's still here. Did we lose Mike? Wade Heaton, followed by Greg McGregor.

Wade Heaton: Last one. Wade Heaton representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. Our little group has discussed, there's going to be a proposal presented here in just a minute as many of you understand, I believe from a distinguished gentleman Mr. Roberts. He's going to present a discussion about some micro-units, smaller units. Anyway, Friends of the Paunsagaunt have discussed this quite a bit and we'd like to voice our support in this. We think that the average hunter in Utah has changed a lot and can benefit a lot from this proposal, so we'd like to put our backing behind that. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Wade. Greg, followed by Ben Louder.

Greg McGregor: Greg McGregor, Santa Clara, Utah. I am concerned about the split season. I feel like that may be too much pressure. Although it does divide the hunters, it's like two opening days, two opening seasons. I'm concerned about that added pressure on the resource. I also----If I understood right, there would be a few dates where limited entry muzzleloader and rifle elk would be concurrent, they would overlap each other. I know there's a lot of people that have worked a lot of years, what's Mac's point, 17 something like that. And I know I would be awfully frustrated if I had to combat, you know, have conflicting weapons out there at the same time. And also, I applaud getting the limited entry archer closer to the rut; that is the most, it's been problematic. A lot of those tags they go a lot of years thinking that they've drawn a piece of heaven and then they come back empty handed because that archery hunt is really really tough when it's not in the rut. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Greg. Ben Louder, Russell Riggs.

Ben Louder: My name's Ben Louder, representing Utah Bowman's Association. First of all I'd like to thank Anis for putting this proposal together. I can tell just by looking at it that you put a lot of time and effort and thought into it; and we as an organization really appreciate that. We're really excited about this proposal. We fully support it. We believe that it gives increased opportunities across all weapon types. We really like the combination of the deer and the elk hunts and the muzzleloader and the rifle hunts. We've obviously enjoyed that opportunity as bow hunters and we think the muzzleloader and the rifle hunters would enjoy that as well. Also, we really like the set season dates opening on a set date and closing on a set date. In the past the seasons have always fluctuated by a week, one way or the other, just depending on how the calendar falls. Most other western states surrounding Utah already have a system like this where they open on a set date and close on a set date. I've hunted in a few of those states and I feel that it works out well. And we support this in full. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you Ben. Russell followed by Gene Boardman.

Russell Riggs: Russell Riggs, Hatch, Utah. And I'm just representing the stick flippers. We're, those of us who like to hunt archery are definitely in support of anything that will give us a hunt where we can hunt for, well in my particular case the only thing I can get which is a spike elk tag on FishLake, when they would talk to us. This last year was just like the year before; the hunts keep getting shorter. This last hunt ended the first of September and in Southern Utah with the dry conditions that we've had the elk weren't talking until the day before the hunt ended. So I understand the RAC and the Wildlife Boards difficulty in trying to allow so many hunting seasons for so many different species without overlapping and stepping on each other. But I think that we need to do something to increase the archery success or at least the archery potential for (unintelligible) and or going after some kind of an animal. And I think this is a good opportunity to look at that. The other thing is that I don't see any increase in pressure because we're still not adding more hunters to the field. In fact is we're spreading that pressure out over two separate hunts, an early and a late. That sounds like a really good idea to me. I don't know that there will be that much competition between someone who draws a premium entry tag because most of those units are separate and don't have spike bull hunts, only one I know of is probably Fish Lake. And there may be others but I think there's going to be a reduced number. So I think anything the Division does to try to offer more hunts in prime time, at least for someone who flips a stick, is certainly better for those of us that do. We're the only state that I know of that puts rifle hunt in the prime rut and all of the primitive weapons at the worst possible time. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Russell. Jean, with Nolan Gardner following.

Jean Boardman: I'm a rifle hunter and I'm not a dedicated hunter. Jean Boardman, Hinckley, Utah. What I fear here on these proposals is that I'm going to get screwed again. Surely the dedicated hunters are going to get to take their choice and the rest of us are going to draw for what's left over. I don't know whether you fellers are really aware of it, and you members of the RAC that are supposed to be representing sportsman certainly should be, but we're drawing once every two years and maybe once every three years now. We can't put a family hunt together or it's very difficult. We have to work awfully hard to try to get a family hunt together. And everything is pretty tough on us. Now you want to do us a five-day hunt again, while the other disciplines don't take any cuts. And what I see in this is that dedicated hunters are going to get to choose their season, or they'll whine and get to hunt both seasons. And we're going to get just what's left over. And I'm really concerned about that in this thing. I should say it in a more diplomatic way and I'm sorry that I'm being a little abrupt here but I am afraid that this season, this plan is going to give the dedicated hunters another chance to choose in front of us and you're going to drive more hunters away. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Nolan, followed by Brian Johnson.

Nolan Gardner: I'm Nolan Gardner, St. George. I am concerned about this split season. I think there will be way too much pressure, especially down in our unit. I think you're going to push those deer down into that winter range and that second hunt would really be a slaughter. I'm also concerned, we uh, I know the big concern last couple of years, you guys wanted to go the two weekends for the kids and by doing this one of the hunts is obviously only going to have one hunt that will be the two weekends. And unless we do do something with the dedicated hunters, you know, that, the second hunt would be taken up by them. But anyway I'd like to see it stay the two weekends for the kids. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Brian, and Lance Roberts. The last comment card I've got.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson. I really like microphones so this may not be the last time I talk. But I just, I like the idea of the hunts starting on a fixed day just because you'll get a real idea of what the actual hunting pressure is versus camping pressure. I know I mentioned that earlier. The other thing I wanted to bring up is the deer; the Division put a lot of money into a survey about what the average deer hunter wants. And I just, I mean, and this comes about next year and a lot of heated discussion, just don't disregard what the average - - - The average deer hunter wants to hunt deer. And so if we'd go, I mean whatever we can do to help that happen I think, I think that's, the masses - - - You know there are the limited entry areas - - - Um, personally I'd love to see big deer under every bush. The only way to do that is to let them grow up. But the masses don't necessarily want that, according - - I mean you've got surveys that say people want to hunt deer. As far as the elk hunt and the muzzleloader hunt and the rifle hunt guys mixing, the average muzzleloader hunter is done in under three days on a limited entry unit, and the average rifle hunter is done in under three days. Fifty-sixty percent of them are going to be done before they every mesh. So anyway, like I said, it's going to be interesting to see how this changes. But I like the idea of hunts starting on a certain day. And once again, thanks for your time.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Brian.

Lance Roberts: I'm the guy with the presentation. So we're bringing this up. My name is Lance Roberts from Monroe and I'm here representing myself. A lot of these people out in the crowd and then a lot of concerned citizens in the Southern and Southeastern Region so . . . As soon as he gets this up here we'll get going. Just to make a note real quick I've only got five or six minutes and so you, each of you of the RAC have this presentation in front of you along with the crowd behind me. So I'm actually just going to go through this pretty quickly and just hit on some of the main points. To start off, thank you for allowing us to make this presentation this evening. I know it is not always a convenience. But let me just start off by saying we are not a special interest group, in fact we're not a group of any kind, we're just members of the community that are concerned for the health of Utah's mule deer population, particularly in Southern and Southeastern Utah. The purpose of our presentation and our request to you as the RAC is to please allow our proposal to go to the Wildlife Board for its consideration. So what is that proposal? It is mule deer management for a healthy viable herd. How we're going to do that is we would like the Wildlife Board to investigate and consider the possibilities of changing to smaller mule deer management areas inside the current Southern and Southeastern management regions. Now the following map images are representations. Let me just make a strong note there, this is just an example of what it could be. None of these are not yet set in stone or not based on biological normality. Specific boundaries and groupings of units will be an outcome of more professional planning. Here's the current regional map of the Southern, Southeastern areas. And here's an example, briefly, of what it could look like and what it could be. Again, nothing is set in stone at all. Our request is consistent with all neighboring western states. As we take a look at our neighboring western states every single one of them has gone to micromanaging and we can see the outcomes of that by looking at those states. I'm not going to go into detail of that. We do recognize and support the reality that the DWR must maintain their current revenue and so any changes we're proposing must guarantee and equal or increased revenue. Currently some units have a fawn doe ration of 40:100 or less. And biologists tell us from the data below that extremely low fawn doe ratios are often directly correlated with low buck doe ratios. So why is now the time to consider this recommendation? We are very aware that the DWR has recently completed a five-year deer management plan but in as much as they're recommending addressing the

issue of changing season dates, which we're talking about right now, this will clearly impact deer management and we believe this is an ideal time for the Wildlife Board to consider our request. As a general rule we believe that the deer herds in Southern Utah are unhealthy and will continue to decline if appropriate action is not taken as soon as possible. So why smaller units? And here's just a few: Management flexibility is a necessity. And these are just a few areas that can be improved with smaller units. Habitat, fires, disease, predation, buck doe ratios and fawn doe ratios, geography and terrain, droughts and water supply issues, landowner needs, highways, harvest anomalies, law enforcement challenges, and access. So why can we no longer manage mule deer like we've done in the past? We've all heard about the good old days and I'm sure many of you have hunted during those times. But what has changed since the 1060's? Just briefly to touch upon these, technological enhancements: Obviously, rifles, we can shoot a mile now. Optics, 100 percent better, Rangefinders, digital cameras, trail cameras, greater access, better roads, more ATVs, magazines and websites telling us where to go and how to hunt and how to do it. Improved camping systems. Occupational hunters, increased numbers of outfitters. Increased predation. Human pressure is now year-round, as we all know. Outfitters investments, and DWR complexities. We know that agency budgets must be met regardless of the impact on mule deer. Smaller units also improve opportunities to partner with (unintelligible) and other wildlife organizations. These smaller management units would open ways to coordinate information regarding the hunters, who they are and where they are so that we can more effectively protect sensitive species such as the condor and other ones. So as Mr. Heaton mentioned before, we do have the support of the Friends of the Paunsagaunt, we do have support of local CWMU landowners, possible support from UN, local legislatures and obviously local citizens. Truth about changes, this is according to one biologist. And I want to read this word for word because I think it is very specific on what we're dealing with here. He said managing today for wildlife tomorrow. Changing seasons, hunting seasons that is; no one likes change. It is disruptive, different and scary. Psychologists define stress as a person's physical and psychological response to change. So there you have it, change equals stress. But without change things never get better. Hunter participation has been decreasing for decades and wildlife conservation needs hunters. Hunters are not only important because they generate funding and volunteers to work on wildlife conservation projects, but because they provide political support for important legislative issues. They also remind others that wildlife is significant, that it positively affects one's quality of life. Watching hunter participation wane provides inspiration for change. In game management we remain responsive to what is happening on the ground yet we must think ahead to fulfill our duty as stewards of wildlife populations.

Steve Flinders: If you could wrap it up Lance.

Lance Roberts: I'm thirty seconds away.

Steve Flinders: You're doing good.

Lance Roberts: Without change we are sure to continue to have this as I showed in the first slide. But we are asking you the RAC to consider our proposal to go before the Wildlife Board for a consideration. And that is it. And this is what we want to have. So thank you for supporting Utah's mule deer.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Lance. That's a nice presentation. I think the Division and RACs have heard about small, smaller unit management and it's time to look at it again. One last comment card from Jason Anderson.

Jason Anderson: It looks like there's a few comment cards still out there too. I just noticed a few people. I just, I am representing - - - My name's Jason Anderson, really representing my, two weeks ago on the opening of the deer hunt there was, my family had 15 camp trailers, 45 people, 12 tags and a load of fun. We really quite enjoyed the experience and the opportunity. I just wanted to share some concerns. I'm also employed by the Bureau of Land Management. I kind of represent some other natural resource specialists that I work with and we talk quite a bit. Some of our concerns, and you'll get to see this, if you notice the agenda for 2011, October, that's 27 days of solid hunting in October if we go with those. Those time periods would go through early rifle, muzzleloader and early, and then the late rifle, that's 27 days. That's a lot of hunting. And then I see Mr. Hinckley come up here today and I think we have the gentleman from Hinckley and he's concerned about his opportunity as a rifle hunter. And I think, I think he's got a valid point that he's concerned about his privileges as a rifle hunter. I think we have an opportunity to think outside of the box. And you guys defiantly do as RAC members; have an opportunity to think outside of a box. I wish I could have come a little earlier at agenda number five, talked about the 2010 option. I heard brother, or Mr. Woodbury, excuse me, Mr. Woodbury talk about, you know, his concern about the nine-day hunt; a nine day how, hate to lose that, that opportunity. There are lots of different options out there and we don't have to do a five-day adult hunt and a nine-day youth hunt. There's an option out there, antler restriction is a proven method to increase buck to doe ratios. An opportunity, we have an opportunity to maybe move forward with something youth have an opportunity to hunt any legal buck and adults three point or better. I mean there's evidence out there, DWR has it as well as the BLM and other agencies that could support higher buck to doe ratios during that three point or better year. Those are just some options. And just some things, I think we have a great opportunity, I think Mr. Roberts showed, and other people, Mr. Gregerson and others who came up here today, they're concerned about certain areas. Certain areas they're worried about, they're worried about the Pine Valley neck of the woods. We're worried about Central and Southern Utah. Small wildlife units would help manage those concerns. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Jason. One more comment card, Kay Kimball. Any other comment cards? Thank you.

Kay Kimball: Kay Kimball, just sportsman. I just want you to know that I liked the presentation on the smaller units. I hope the RAC, and I would request that you take this proposal to the Board for their consideration. I think the time has come, particularly with the deer herd in Southern Utah, that we seriously consider smaller units. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Well I think what I'd like to do before we have discussion and comments, maybe it would be most helpful to the Wildlife Board is to pretend this was kind of a real agenda item. Yeah, let's, let's, if somebody wants to we could make a motion on unit-by-unit and see how that flies. Also, on these proposed hunt dates and see what kind of discussion we get and what kind of resulting vote. Go ahead Sam. Tell us what you're thinking.

RAC discussion and vote:

Sam Carpenter: Okay, we'll have comments later, right? You know I've always been a proponent of this micromanaging thing. And I know all of our neighboring states use that theory. I really want to complement the guys out here that have put this presentation together. And I would like to make a motion that the Southern RAC recommend that the Board take a look at this and try to enact it as soon as viable.

Cordell Pearson: I'll second that.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Cordell.

Cordell: I kind of stopped? Well that's a switch. Okay, do you want me to start from . . . Where did you get to? Okay, I'd like to make a motion that the Southern RAC support this proposal and make a recommendation that the Board look at the proposal and if possible enact it as soon as viable.

Steve Flinders: So that would be 2011 or . . .

Cordell Pearson: Whenever it is, as soon as we can get it; the sooner the better. Sooner than later.

Steve Flinders: Do you still second that Cordell?

Cordell Pearson: Yes Sir.

Steve Flinders: Does that make sense Natalie? We don't want to confuse you.

Natalie Brewster: Sam Carpenter made the motion that the Southern Region RAC supports the (unintelligible).

Steve Flinders: It's unit-by-unit management, the concept of unit-by-unit management.

Cordell Pearson: As the proposal indicated.

Steve Flinders: Discussion? Clair?

Clair Woodbury: Can we legally make an action proposal?

Steve Flinders: It's an informational item. The motion is, it will really help the Wildlife Board in how we feel up here.

Clair Woodbury: Okay.

Steve Flinders: And the Division as we formulate it. So we . . .

Clair Woodbury: Then I'll just make a comment. I think it sounds like it has some great possibilities, but before I could support an action or a motion I think we need to study it and get some input and put it on the action log to look at it in the future.

Steve Flinders: Certainly. Go ahead Paul.

Paul Briggs: I'd like to just hear from Doug or maybe some of the Division staff that have been around when we used to manage these areas into smaller units and maybe have some discussion on why we went away from that years ago.

Steve Flinders: Is it okay if we suspend that discussion for the future?

Paul Briggs: Sure.

Steve Flinders: But absolutely. Anything else before we vote on this motion? Go ahead Sam. Uh, Steve.

Steve Dalton: Yes, I'd like to make a comment. I'm in favor of this. I think it's pretty well thought-out. Sitting up here tonight watching all these other people from different areas in the Southern Region bring up individual instances of concerns they had on their particular little place, should give us all we need to make the decision to go ahead with something along these lines, because we had like five or six different people in different areas making similar recommendations for concerning their particular little deer herd. And that's what we heard, and I've been hearing it for years, and we can't just seem to get it to come up to be addressed; and I think it's probably time.

Steve Flinders: Everybody okay with the motion to look at unit-by-unit again? Let's vote on it. All in favor or the motion? Hold them up. All opposed?

Clair Woodbury: I abstain for now.

Steve Flinders: Clair needs more information.

Sam Carpenter made the motion that the Southern Region RAC support and look at the proposal, unit by unit management, and intact it as soon as possible.

6 for 1 abstain, Clair Woodbury. Motion carried.

Steve Flinders: Anybody care to make a motion on the proposal at hand, about season dates and all the details? We heard a lot of comments from the public about pros and cons. Both, whatever. . . A motion will carry more weight.

Sam Carpenter: I'll make a comment. And I really would like to complement the department for thinking out of the box and for bringing us, to us as a straw man or whatever you said about it. I certainly hope that you will get some kind of a survey out there and gather an awful lot of data. I have never been hit harder with comments on anything, especially being a non-action item, an information item. And this item that came out today; there is an awful lot of concern and controversy out there. And if you'd take the time to get, put together a really good survey I think that would answer a lot of questions.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Sam. Anybody care to discuss further the proposed?

Clair Woodbury: Just a comment. I think it's great that the Division and the Wildlife Board is looking to think outside the box. I think it's great to have new ideas. I really applaud them for making this controversial step. And I, like Sam, have got a ton of comments, discussion from the general public. And there are a lot of good ideas out there that we haven't even heard tonight. You know everybody has an opinion and they're all right. You know they are all valid. So I think it's a great move to look at this and I applaud you guys.

Steve Flinders: Anything further? Go ahead Mack.

Mack Morrell: From the agriculture standpoint we are hunting most of October constantly when the livestock are moving from off the mountain to their home. I have a great concern of the amount of pressure on the roads and in the hills, not only for the animals but also for human safety on this proposal.

Steve Flinders: Okay. We've heard that from others tonight. Anything else? It's been a pretty good discussion. If not we'll leave it at the motion that we passed and move on to the next agenda item. Anis, Wildlife Mortality. This was an action log item that . . . sure, sure . . .

(Comment not on mic, inaudible)

Steve Flinders: One motion. And just the rest of the comments noted.

Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Action Log Item) (informational) -Kent Hersey, Wildlife Program Coordinator
2:53:42 to 3:00:34 of 3:02:57

Steve Flinders: Thanks Anis. That was pretty interesting. Eye opening. Any questions from RAC members? Go ahead Sam.

Questions from the RAC:

Sam Carpenter: Anis, you may not have the information but they recently had a meeting down in Kanab concerning the Paunsagaunt. Do you know where we're at on that or if that is going to happen?

Anis Aoude: The reason probably is the one heading that so I don't know exactly where we are. Dustin you might know.

Dustin Schaible: We have a, we basically drew up a plan that would assess all of the needs and it includes a minimum of four underpasses. And we've basically got that and we're working with Bruce Bonebrake on our habitat section has been the lead on that.

Sam Carpenter: So there is a possibility of that actually happening in the next two or three years?

Dustin Schaible: There's always the possibility. It's just a matter of we're actually ready at this point. The first time stimulus funds came around we didn't have a plan in place. It went to the next project. This time we have the plan ready if funds do become available.

Douglas Messerly: It just takes money Sam.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions? Questions from the public on the presentation?

Questions from the Public:

None

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

Comments from the public:

None

Comments from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: I would add that it's not a secret, UDOT's looking and is taking steps to put a crossing structure on I-70, at mile post 6, coming from I-15, just before the turn. They're looking at fencing that in so they've approached the Forest Service about conducting NEPA. So apparently they've cornered some funds. And we're going to put something in there before they fence it. I don't need a motion or anything from this. That's our last agenda item.

Other Business (contingent)

-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: I don't have any other business so I will take a motion to adjourn.

Steve Dalton: Motion to adjourn.

Steve Flinders: So moved by Steve.

Sam Carpenter: Second.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Sam. Thanks everybody.

Meeting adjourned 8:22 pm

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main, Green River
November 4, 2009 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To accept the agenda as written

Approval of September 9, 2009 minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes as amended
Passed unanimously

2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals

MOTION: To reduce the general season rifle deer hunt in the southeast region to five days in 2010 and reduce the length of all other general season hunts by 45%
Passed with one dissenting vote

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the 2010 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Proposals as presented
Passed with one dissenting vote

Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment

MOTION: To accept the Statewide Deer Management Plan as presented
Passed unanimously

CWMU Permit Numbers for 2010

MOTION: To accept the division proposal to allow five management buck permits for the Paunsagunt CWMU.
Passed with one dissenting vote

Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 as presented.
Passed with one opposing vote

Rule R657-37 Amendment

MOTION: To accept the Rule R657-37 Amendment with the stipulation that the division have the right to review and approve the recipient.
Passed with one dissenting vote

Moose Management Plan

MOTION: To accept the Moose Management Plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Action Log Item)

MOTION: To pursue an initiative to increase federal highway funds for wildlife fencing and crossings plus all tools that will help reduce highway mortality.
Passed unanimously

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main, Green River
November 4, 2009 ⌚ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Members Absent

Kevin Albrecht, USFS
Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor

Blair Eastman, Agriculture

Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official
Wayne Hoskisson, Non-consumptive
Todd Huntington, At Large
Derris Jones, Sportsmen
Laura Kamala, Non-Consumptive
Walt Maldonado, Sportsmen

Kenneth Maryboy, Navajo Rep.

Christine Micoz, At Large
Travis Pehrson, Sportsmen

Pam Riddle, BLM

Terry Sanslow, Chairman
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

Others Present

Jake Albrecht
Lee Howard
Keele Johnson

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

VOTING

**Motion was made by Jeff Horrocks to accept the agenda as written
Seconded by Kevin Albrecht
Motion passed unanimously**

2) **Approval of the September 9, 2009 minutes (Action)**

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht accept the revised minutes
Seconded by Laura Kamala
Motion passed unanimously**

3) **2010 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Proposals** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to reduce the general season rifle hunt in the southeastern region to five days in 2010 and reduce the length of all other general season hunts by 45%

Seconded by Todd Huntington

Motion passed with one dissenting vote cast by Derris Jones

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the remainder of the 2010 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL proposals as presented

Seconded by Kevin Albrecht

Motion passed with one dissenting vote cast by Todd Huntington

4) **Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment as presented.

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed unanimously

5) **CWMU Permit Numbers for 2010** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the division proposal to allow five management buck permits for the Paunsagunt CWMU

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed with one dissenting vote cast by Travis Pehrson

6) **Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the remainder of the CWMU and Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed with one opposing vote cast by Travis Pehrson

7) **Rule R657-37 Amendment** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the Rule R657-37 Amendment with the stipulation that the division have the right to review and approve the recipient.

Seconded by Kevin Albrecht

Motion passed with one opposing vote cast by Travis Pehrson

8) **Moose Management Plan** (Action)

VOTING

Motion was made to accept the Moose Management Plan as presented

Seconded by Travis Pehrson

Motion passed unanimously

9) **Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality** (Information)

VOTING

Motion by Kevin Albrecht to pursue an initiative to increase federal highway funds for wildlife fencing and crossings plus all tools that will help reduce highway mortality

Seconded by Travis Pehrson

Passed unanimously

Old Business

- **Terry Sanslow, Chairman**

All motions that were passed by the RAC were also passed by the Wildlife Board. The motions to keep the fly fishing only section of Huntington Canyon and to remove the Carbon County Fishing Pond were not acted upon by the Board.

No action was taken on the motion for the buffalo management plan for the West Tavaputs. It was decided to look at the herd to see if they are going to stay.

3) Regional Update (Information)

- **Paul Birdsey, Aquatics Program Manager**

Paul Birdsey sat in for Bill Bates, due to Bill's late arrival. The regional update was suspended until the December 9, 2009 meeting, due to the expected length of this meeting.

4) 2010 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Proposals (Action)

- **Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Manager**

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Why are Lasals...(unable to decipher from recording, but probably 'not a 5-day season anymore?')

Anis Aoude- Because the buck to doe ratio is above 15.

Kevin Albrecht- Asked to talk a little bit more on the Lasal Deloris Triangle season dates.

Guy Wallace- Explained that they recommended the season last year and added an archery hunt. Over the year they have had complaints with the muzzloader hunt because the season runs concurrent with Colorado's late season rifle hunt. When you have hunters hunting right on the border of the state line, you have hunters on one side hunting with a rifle and hunters on the other side hunting with a muzzloader. It made for a low hunt satisfaction.

Charlie Tracy- Will the youth be able to hunt all three seasons?

Anis- No, that is why we made it archery instead of rifle or muzzloader.

Todd Huntington- With the 2011 hunt structure, there will be three hunts back to back. It seems contradictory.

Anis- Those hunts are not happening on November during the rut.

Todd Huntington- Do you have the archery hunt data for this year?

Anis- showed the slide with that data.

Kevin Albrecht- Looking at it on the map on public land it looks like the hunters are spread out really well. One of the things that we noticed was the amount of use of illegal trails. The committee talked about the possibility that there are a lot of campers out there as well. I think that there is a lot of BLM land and desert land that doesn't appeal to archery hunters as much as Forest Service land.

Anis- That is also the case in the other regions as well.

Derris Jones- The units that have a five day hunt due to the low buck to doe ratio, are you going to be shortening the archery and muzzloader season as well?

Anis- Yes

Derris Jones- Are they going to be delayed openings?

Anis- No

Derris Jones- They are going to be regular openings?

Anis- Yes, except for the rifle.

Derris Jones- What's the rationale?

Anis- Initially we didn't recommend shortening seasons on these two hunts. The board wanted a shortened season. We didn't see that the shortened season reduced harvest, but by delaying it you would see that most people have already punched their tag because a lot of harvest takes place on a regional level that first weekend. So there would be fewer hunters that would have a valid tag that could actually hunt, plus it is a mid-week opener which decreased harvest even more. It did decrease harvests on the units that we wanted to decrease harvests. We're just not sure what the harvest was on the surrounding areas. We're looking at that and if we see that the data shows that we over-harvested on those units we may recommend something different.

Derris Jones- If it worked well with the rifle, why wouldn't it work well with the archery?

Anis- It would. It was so confusing and is a lot easier to have everyone start at the same time. There are so few muzzleloaders and archers that it's not worth reducing harvest that much more. The rifle hunters would probably be the ones that have the most effect on it.

Kevin Albrecht- With the Statewide Deer Committee, I thought that we discussed the recommendation that rifle hunters were cut back by the same percentage.

Anis- It is the same percentage. It is five days on the muzzleloader, it's the same percentage on the archery.

Wayne Hoskisson- The very last paragraph in this section talks about the changes on the harvest objective on the premium limited entry hunts. There is a sentence in there that has me puzzled. It says, this objective is changeable...

Anis- I will cover that in the next presentation. That's on the amendment to the mule deer plan.

Derris Jones- On the San Rafael antelope unit, the bucks aren't there. Does that open up the opportunity for some transplants on the San Rafael? Is it going to be part of the San Rafael unit?

Anis- It's going to be part of the San Rafael unit. We're trying to harvest the animals that are part of Henry's, not increasing the population on the San Rafael.

Derris Jones- So it will just be a boundary change?

Anis- Yes.

Derris Jones- So you are just going to manage the herd?

Anis- Basically, there's not a unit planned for the Henry's, so we're just opening it up, and there probably won't be a lot of pronghorn on the Henry's, so if people see one and want to harvest it they can, where right now they can't.

Questions from the Public

Eric Luke- You show the archers there in the middle and the dedicated hunters. Are those archers not represented in the dedicated hunter pool? Do they still have to specify their region?

Anis- The dedicated hunters have to pick a region, so it's the regions they picked that are up there. (Referring to the slide show presentation.)

Eric- So, whoever draws a general archery tag, they don't have to pick a region?

Anis- They did have to pick this last year, and that is the data that we used here.

Verd Byrnes- The delayed hunt created problems on the Lasal for those that don't read the proclamation. How many citations were issued?

TJ Robertson- Three deer were illegally harvested. We wrote seven citations total the first two days and two citations after that. Nine citations total on the Lasals.

Verd Byrnes- Were these tickets for poaching?

TJ Robertson- Yes, unlawful take of protected wildlife.

James Gilson- What's the buck to doe ratio on the Abajo's?

Guy Wallace- Last year, it was about 22.

James- I guess my question has already been asked. When you look at the map, why don't you look at the true deer habitat rather than just the acreage?

Anis- It was done with deer habitat.

James- There's deer on the San Rafael Desert, 10 or 12

Anis- The San Rafael Desert doesn't have many bucks.

James- Looking at the Manti, the deer habitat that time of the year is the two miles from Skyline Drive.

Anis- Yeah but, that is also true for all these regions as well. So if you did that you would have fewer acres on all of them. But you would still have more acres in the southern region than you do in the other ones.

James- You classify deer in 2008 and that created a five day deer season in 2009?

Anis- It's a three year average.

James- Ok, but the Lasal was in a five day hunt this year. Based on what numbers?

Anis- It's based on the 2008, 2007, 2006 data.

James- And it was below 15 so you made that decision. What's the Lasal buck to doe ratio?

Anis- The three year average?

Guy Wallace-It was based on 2007, 2006, and 2005, because we hadn't done 2008 yet.

James- So it went low enough to go to a five day hunt.

Guy Wallace- It was 14 before.

James- So what you are saying is that it is based on the year before.

Anis- There is a two year lag.

James- By next year the Lasal could be below 15?

Anis- Potentially.

James- Based on winter kill or excessive harvest this year.

Anis- Yes, potentially.

Darren Gardner- I'm concerned about our deer herd. What are we going to do about our buck to doe ratio? 15 bucks to 100 does is not good.

Anis- When you are managing for opportunity, that is what you need to reproduce all the does and still allow enough hunting pressure.

Darren- I have a lot to say, but they're not questions so...

Jeff Mabbott- On you five day seasons, starting after the general season opener, how much of an increase in hunters did you see going from the opening weekend to those five day areas?

Anis- For the most part, there was no increase. It was actually a decrease. We patrolled the units and on the units that I went on, it was about 1/3.

Jeff - So, you had people camped out on Saturday, but didn't start hunting until Wednesday?

Anis- No, people hunted other areas.

Jeff.- So, nobody hunted those areas?

Anis- They did but not until it opened.

Jeff- Does that give a higher success rate to the general overall hunters? You know, if everyone spread out across the entire region, doesn't the second opening day....

Anis- There was no second openers is what I'm saying. There were actually fewer people on those units.

Jeff- But it's the second opening day, so if they didn't harvest their deer on the nine day hunt unit...

Anis- Yeah but here's the premise, the majority of the harvest takes place on the opening weekend, so there were fewer people that had an unfilled tag that could go to those areas. 70% of the harvest usually happens on the opening day.

Jeff- So now the 30% move back to the five day units. Would they have a higher success rate so all in all, hunters.....

Anis- We don't know. The data on success rate is not in.

Comments from the Public

Ben Lowder of the Utah Bowmen's Association- First of all I would like to thank all the RAC members here tonight. We realize you put in a lot of time and we really appreciate your efforts. As far as UBA's recommendations this year, we support the division's recommendation to go back to statewide archery as well as the recommendation from the division to issue the 1500 over the counter youth archery tags after the general season tags sell out. In regards to the statewide archery committee, I did sit on that committee and I would like to talk about that for a few minutes. What we found on that committee is that crowding occurs in all regions. There are hotspots in all regions. In the southeastern region, some potential hotspots are obviously the Abajo Mountains. Not specific to any one region, the northern region has it as well, the Monte Cristo, the central region has the Strawberry area. Again crowding is more of a hotspot issue than a regional issue. That is what we concluded in that committee. In addition to the hot spots and crowding issue we discussed at length that the perception of crowding comes from a lot of recreationists that are out in the field in addition to hunters. There's a lot of people camping, fishing, and hiking. August is just a great time to be in the outdoors and so bow hunters go out that weekend and see other people and assume they are hunting as well and take that as the perceived crowding issue. In addition to that, the bow hunt starts the third week in August. Across most of the state, that is the last weekend before school starts, so a lot of families are taking advantage of that. That's kind of a quick summery of the conclusions that as a committee we came up with. If any of you have questions, I would be more than happy to address those.

Terry Sanslow- I should mention that we do have a five minute time limit. Please keep that in mind.

Verd Byrnes- I'm concerned about the deer herd as it is. I've been a dedicated hunter since it started. I've tried to support the division. Managing for opportunity isn't working. It's hard to tell our youth that we have the opportunity to go out and shoot a buck and that's what they're suppose to accept. My generation, we can afford to hunt deer if we're a dedicated hunter for three seasons. My generation is choosing not to support this kind of management. That's the type of thing I think the RAC and division should consider. We're trying to get the youth involved, but were losing other hunters. If I can't draw a limited entry tag in Utah, I will be hunting out of state. Thanks.

Shayne Thompson- I'd like to agree with this man. I don't think that we need to settle for 15 bucks per 100 does. We're losing the youth. We're not recruiting. 25 bucks per 100

does would open a lot more opportunity. This is not an opportunity to hunt, it's an opportunity to go camping. It's time we do something in this state.

Ken Snook from Back Country Horsemen- The 40 hr. requirement for D.H, I've heard a lot on anti feelings on the 40 hr. increase. Some people feel that it's a little too much. Some people would rather go to a RAC meeting and do the 24 hrs. I sent a letter to Randall Stilson recommending 32 hrs. I know it's just a recommendation, I think you'll get more people. I know that you're getting more of a demand and you've got to go to a draw but I think you're going to see a tapering off of dedicated hunters in the future at 40 hrs. I do 40+ hrs a year and I know that others do too. I also do Back Country horseman and others things as well. The second thing I wanted to comment on was, to ask kind of a question, I wrote a letter quite a few years ago when they changed the spike elk hunt from a Wednesday to a Saturday. Has there been any evidence or increase in activity with changing it to a Saturday? I would like to see it go back to Wednesday again and have that long weekend to hunt. A lot of people that travel a long way and like to go to church on Sundays can't do it on a Saturday and go back out. They have to go back home on Sunday and gather up all their equipment and it's a long way to travel to go back to elk hunt. So I would like to see it go back to a Wednesday.

Terry Sanslow- Would someone like to comment on his question about the elk hunt going from a Wednesday to a Saturday?

Anis- As far as success rate, it's really low on that hunt. It's about 6% success rate on spike hunts. It hasn't increased success rates.

Terry- I just wanted to get some input on that.

Anis- No, as far as harvest is concerned it hasn't affected it at all.

James Gilson- I've got a couple questions and comments too.

Terry Sanslow- Jim, you know the rules, this is comment time.

James- I'm going to comment after my question. If the deer herd on the Manti and other areas in the southeast region are at 50% objective, is the opportunity you're looking for the opportunity to hunt or the opportunity to harvest? When you look at opportunity, what are you trying to provide? Because I've heard a lot about that here tonight and I've heard a lot about it in my travels around the state.

Anis- It's the opportunity to hunt.

James- Ok, the opportunity to hunt. So we just want to sell tags and give people the opportunity to hunt. But killing deer, that's not considered?

Anis- It is. I mean, success rates are still considered.

James- Your comment was to increase harvest and satisfaction.

Anis- On limited entry units. We manage limited entry different than we do the general season.

James- So, if we're at 50% objective, my comment is our opportunity to harvest is already cut by 50% because we're hunting half the deer our objective says. The southeast region fell below objective on the Lasal, whether there's 15 bucks per 100 does or 20, if there's only 100 does, the real opportunity is to hunt and have a satisfactory experience, which includes some deer meat. I think that everyone agrees that once in a while some deer meat along with a satisfactory hunt would be nice. I think that we've jumped the gun in this region, last year in my travels, I've seen a lot of folks. Everybody said last year was the worst deer season they have seen until this year. The deer herd's in the toilet, yet we continue to hunt, based on buck to doe ratios that don't matter. If you only have 100 does and 15 bucks, it doesn't matter, there's no opportunity to harvest and there's no

satisfaction in most of the hunts. Also you made a comment that 70% of the deer are killed on the first weekend. The local butcher shop in Huntington took in just as many deer the second weekend as they did the first.

Anis- I'm telling you what the harvest data is showing.

James- Well, you don't have this year's data. Anyway, the S.F.W proposes that we do a five day hunt in the southeast region for people over 18 years of age and we recommend that we stay with a nine day hunt for those 17 and younger. There's not a lot to offer the youth, but for a lot of families in Utah, if you're a youth with a five day hunt, you only get one day. If you don't hunt on Sunday's, you're involved in sports or high school activities, you hunt the opening day, go to church Sunday, football practice on Monday, so we do need to work on the kids, so a nine day hunt is good. As depleted as our herds are, the buck/doe ratios aren't related to quality and the success of the guys going out there. Until we recover the deer herd, we need to make some sacrifices. There's two ways, and Jim Karpowitz and I have discussed this for years, there's two ways to reduce harvest, cut hunter days or cut tags. It's clear that they're not going to cut tags. And cutting hunter days, I've had that discussion for years. The data that's been used, whether a nine day hunt harvests more deer, if you look at the graph, when they used nine day harvest data, it was in those years that buck harvest was down and populations were down. We don't know what five and nine day does. But I do know that my buddy that cuts meat took in just as many deer the second weekend as he did the first. So it looks like the harvest is the same. We haven't counted our bucks, we know we're on the edge, especially in some of the units and they could be at 10 bucks per 100 does next year with a full hunt. We don't know that data because we wait a year. Anyway, we'd like to back off the harvest, give these deer a chance to have some mature bucks in the population so we would like to do five days for 18 and older and nine days for 17 and younger.

Kim McFarlane- This year I've had the joy of spending a lot of time out on the mountain hunting and probably more than I have in the last ten years. I also have a lifetime license and for the last five years I really haven't bothered to go out hunting because of the quality of hunting that's available here. I know that my son has not picked up an interest in deer hunting because of the same reason, because there has not been a good opportunity for him to go out and see a buck that he can shoot at. It's been great to go look at some different areas this year and see some of the caliber of deer herds we have in this state. But as I have spent time in other areas, it's disappointing to be able to spend 12 hours on a horse on the Mani Lasal and only see four deer all day. I think that that's poor management. When I was, well 25 years ago on one of my first hunts, I was just across the canyon of where I was this year, and we saw about 200 deer run back and forth across that mountain, and since that big snow storm in 1983 and 1984 somewhere around there, the deer haven't recovered and we would appreciate it if you guys would do something to bring the population back to where you would see deer out in the mountains.

Eric Luke- I would like to reiterate what has been said here. The fact that we are willing to settle for the lowest point for our management objective of 15 bucks per 100 does is disturbing to me. I know that the Division is faced with the hard task of providing opportunity but until we can get a deer herd that is a viable herd, we've got to make some sacrifices. I don't think that it is in the best interest of the deer herd to open it back up to a nine day hunt because we are just barely at our objective. The management plan is not just 15 bucks per 100 does, I believe it's 15-25 bucks per 100 does and just as soon as we hit that bottom portion, we're ready to throw in the towel. That's pretty disturbing to me. My proposal is that we raise our objectives a little bit and our expectations and quit trying

to manage for the lowest possible thing, and we make the sacrifices and get our deer herd up, then the opportunity can be increased once we have a viable herd.

Jeff Mabutt- I've been hunting for 14 years. The deer herds are struggling. It's sad to see. I've seen it in the past 14 years. In the 80's we used to go to the upland game fields up Consumers and you would see thousands of deer. Nowadays you go up there and maybe see hundreds. That's in the dead of winter. I agree with everybody here, I don't know who set those 15 bucks per 100 does ratios. Hunters don't want the ability to hunt, we want the ability to hunt and harvest an animal. It's not worth our time and money to just go camping. If we want to go camping, we'll camp. If we want to hunt, we want to hunt and kill an animal. A lot of people from the surrounding areas are fed up with the numbers. You know buck to doe ratios the does aren't there so the bucks aren't there, where there used to be thousands of deer, there's only hundreds of deer. I think that everyone's willing to sacrifice, back off tags a lot. It's going to be painful for sure-not being able to hunt- but if we back off tags five years from now we can let people start hunting again and our numbers will be back up. People will have the ability to harvest animals and not just the opportunity to hunt.

Lyle Henry- I think that you have touched on a lot of good things. The buck to doe ratio is a little bit low. I know when you run cattle; you run 15 cows to one bull if you don't you don't get the cows bred. I definitely think that your buck to doe ratio has to come up to get your does covered, to get the fawns you need. Another problem that you're overlooking is your predator control. I know that you've got a lot of problems with your lion hunter activists and that is something that really needs to be looked at, because they're killing your fawn crops, they're killing your sheep, they're killing your elk up there. There really needs to be something done and the Fish and Game has the control to stop it. I know that the federal government trappers are only allowed to trap in certain areas at certain times, but they need to have an area and trap that area and keep it under control at all times. There needs to be someone in there trapping all the time like they did in the 50's and 60's where everything was trapped and controlled. Let more lion hunters in there.

Lee Howard- The Preston Nutter Ranch has an any bull hunting opportunity while the public doesn't. I would like to see that changed to an any bull unit to coincide with the Preston Nutter Ranch because it limits the public to spike only. I would like to see the Nine Mile unit be changed to any bull.

Derris Jones- Are you talking about the Nine Mile Range Creek Unit or the Preston Nutter CWMU? They're two different things.

Lee- I'm talking about the Nine Mile Unit. Isn't Nine Mile Range Creek spike only?

Derris- Yes, except on private land.

Lee- I would like to see that change so that the public has equal access for any bull on the unit.

Derris- I don't understand why you want to allow the people to trespass on private land?

Lee- No. I'm saying that public land needs to go to any bull rather than spike only.

Anis- I think what he's trying to say is to take it out of limited entry and make it an any bull unit.

Lee- Yes

Anis- Right now it's limited entry with spike hunting on public lands. He wants the entire unit to be any bull and not limited entry.

Lee- Thank You, that's all I have.

Darrin Gardner- We used to be proud of the deer herds on our state. Everyone else was proud of them too, everyone knew about the Utah deer herds. They don't anymore. I'm worried about my kids. They don't know what it's like to hunt a big buck, I do. My kids comment on this, it's terrible. My kids don't know what its like to hunt a good deer like they don't know what it's like to hunt a wild rooster pheasant. That pretty much sums it up. Everybody here knows exactly what I'm talking about. There used to be people from out of state that would come to Utah to hunt pheasants. That doesn't happen anymore. We need to do something, and it's up to you to do that. I think that if I had to power I could change it. I hunt a lot in neighboring states and if you go across the borders you can have a hunt that we use to have here. We need to do something and it has to do with buck to doe ratios. Let's use Colorado as an example. Their worst units are 30 or 25 bucks to 100 does. That's their worst one's, they're not proud of that. They're proud of the 40's and 50's. I can get on the internet and look that up. What we're doing here is piss poor. We need to make some changes for our children and grandkids. They need this. I don't know how to put in words like you want me to but the point is we need to make some changes. We need to make the famous Utah deer herd famous again. We have the gene pool, well the gene pool is getting depleted but it's not too late if we get on the ball and take care of it. 15 bucks to 100 does is terrible. I would really like to go out with some officers and have you show me this because I spend more time in the field than you do. I guarantee it and I can't see this. I grew up next to the Redd Ranch, I know this country. Go show me these 15 bucks to 100 does; I'd like to see it. It's not there. I spend a lot of time in the field. I walk, I ride, I drive, my son and I have covered a lot of country and I'd like to see the 15 bucks to 100 does that's not here. That's not good enough. It's not good enough for me, it shouldn't be good enough for the people that's taking care of this multibillion dollar business that's what we have going in this state. How can you not want to take care of it? There's more money to make on hunting than there is in any other business in the state I would guess. I don't know that for sure but look at your hunting magazine and it will tell you how much revenue is earned in this country from hunting. That's not just Utah it's nationwide. We need to take care of it. We have to take care of it. It's almost too late; we've got to get on the ball for my kids and grandkids.

RAC Discussion

Terry Sanslow- It looks like we have a proposal from SFW for a five day hunt for all hunters 18 and older and nine days for hunters 17 and younger. We have several recommendations to raise the buck to doe ratios. Another recommendation to reduce tag numbers, better predator control, and to move the Nine Mile limited entry spike to any bull. Those are the one's that I picked up if you guys want to deal with them we'll go from there.

Kevin Albrecht- I've got one comment about the five day season for the adults and a nine day season for the youth. I struggle with this because I feel there's nobody that cares more for youth recruitment than I do, but at the same time I have two boys and if we have to make sacrifices as a hunter, I hope that I can teach my boys that we do need to cut our season short to five days and hopefully instill that in them at a young age. At the same time, if I bring something up about the youth it looks like a black eye and I absolutely wouldn't want to do anything that would hinder youth recruitment but being in the field I have a job that gives me the opportunity to have a lot of time away and a good wife and I truly feel that this five day season does save deer, it does save bucks. And I feel that there are many units that could use that. I feel that if I oppose the nine day

season, it will just stay a nine day season and won't go to a five day. But I do struggle and I feel that we should instill that into our youth as well.

Walt Maldonado- I feel, like we've lowered our expectations and we've done that in a 10 year span. The 15 per 100 is a joke and now for 10 years or however long it's been there I feel it hasn't done "jack diddly" and things are getting worse. Up on the Manti to see people excited at their camp over a spike that's just barely bigger than my German Short, pissed the hell out of me. I remember a day when you saw a 28" hanging and that was exciting and it was good hunting. But I feel that we've lowered our expectations and I remember when the 15 per 100 came out it was 15 per 100 does plus 30% of them had to be over four years old. We canned that right away, within a year we canned it and I kept asking, "What happened to that?" It just faded into the distance and pretty soon I didn't see any four year old deer. I didn't see any. You know, the Lasals used to be spectacular and it is a complete, flipping disaster. I mean it is absolutely horrible. We keep going, we keep talking about 15 per 100 does, the whole unit is at like 30% of objective. You know we never talk about that. We never talk about getting the deer back up there to the capacity. My computer was loaded with emails. They're all willing to sacrifice whatever it is. Whether it's fewer days, less tags, whatever it is. I don't hobnob with the rich and famous believe me. I'm just a regular schmo that goes to work all week and those are the guys I hang with, and we drink beer by the campfire after we work or after we hunt and so these guys are just regular Joes and they're upset. They're totally upset and right now they're willing to do something. They're willing to sacrifice. They willing to do whatever it takes to get the herds back on track. My boy loves hunting and he's at that point now that he's just totally bummed and I have a hard time keeping his interests sparked. We go out and we hunt hard and it just isn't happening and not only is it on the mountain, it's right here in the valley. We used to have good populations and I know that farming practices change but we still had some good bucks, but a lot of people that aren't into the quality, they're just into the meat they're at the point now that it's just whatever. If it has horns it's going to get shot or shot at. That's what we've got and I guess at this point I'm an "old fart" that hunted the Book Cliffs all my life and walked by 25 and 26 inch deer all day long. You just walked by them. We had the dedicated hunter program before it was ever invented on the Book Cliffs. You never saw 20" four points hanging in the tree, people just walked by them because you knew at one point they were going to get big and that has quit. That whole mentality has changed and the people that are into quality are so upset. I agree with the guys that say it's not too late. We've got to do something now. We've got to change this. We've already been working on this program and it doesn't work. It doesn't work at all. My time on the RAC board here is almost done and I, like Jim Gilson, I came on this board thinking I can make a difference and try and get the deer herd in better shape before I left, and I'm really pissed that it's not going to happen. It's gotten worse than when I started. I'm really upset about it myself and that's my two cents, whether you like it or not.

Chris Micoz- I have a couple of comments. I agree that the buck to doe ratio is too low. I was born and raised in a hunting family. I met my husband deer hunting and we haven't hunted deer probably for the last five years because the quality of the hunt is so low. In order to have a quality hunt, you have to pay, and it's turning hunting into a rich man's sport more than a family sport, and it is sad that my kids and grandkids aren't going to have the quality hunts that I grew up with. I would like to see a shorter hunt and less tags and I do think that those people that have grown up hunting are willing to sacrifice that

for a quality hunt. I don't agree with the youth having a longer hunt because you have to have a parent with them. It's getting to do that with your child. They're still getting the opportunity and they need to understand that they have to sacrifice too in order for them to be able to hunt when they are my age or your age. I don't think that it's that big of a sacrifice for them to have a shorter season.

Todd Huntington: One of the gentleman said there were two ways to cut the harvest, "cut tags or cut days." I think we're at a point where we need to do both. If we cut days back to the five day hunt, I'd guess that's why we went to the five day hunt originally. That would coincide with the gentlemen's graph where the buck to doe ratio started to decline. The other is to cut tags. The problem that seems to come up when we talk about cutting tags is revenue. Right now a general deer tag is, I don't think it's a rich mans tag, it's only 35 dollars. If you raise that, for every five dollars you raise that you could cut your tags by 10% and still have equal amount of revenue. For example, if you had 70,000 deer tags, you could actually raise those from 35 to 50 dollars and cut the tags to 49,000 and still have the same revenue. That would make a dramatic difference; I think if you went from 70,000 to 49,000. You're talking a 30% cut in tags. You could change some numbers around by doing that. I agree with the people here. It's time to get something done. If cutting tags and cutting days will do, if either one will do something lets do both.

Travis Pehrson: Back when we had the cougar management discussion, I brought up a question about what the deer population was on the Abajo's. It was said that it was at 90% of objective. I looked up two weeks ago on the divisions website before the deer hunt and it somehow miraculously went from 90% to 95% objective. I talked to some other people and it was quoted that it was at 100% of what the deer population should be which caused a dramatic increase in pressure on the Abajo's this hunting season. There was an outrageous amount of hunters on the Abajo's this year because of what was said and what happened. In one season, I'm sure that depleted the 22 bucks per 100 does down to probably below that. Something needs to change there. The Lasals Mountains, I guided on the Redd Ranches for three weeks this year. I did not see a two point on that unit. I didn't see hardly a handful of bucks on the CWMU Redd Ranches. I saw quite a few does and fawns, not as many as you would like to see but the Lasal Mountains is struggling horribly. I actually counted more bear than I did deer on that unit. The elk are doing wonderful. The elk are doing awesome on the Lasals but the deer are horrible. The bear are doing awesome. But deer again, everyone sees it, there is a total decline in deer. In fact, in San Juan probably the reason why the population objective is so good is because the majority of the land off the mountain is CWMU so you've got 10,000 deer on the CWMU and 1,000 on the mountain that 25,000 hunters are hunting. There's not a lot of opportunity there unless you want to pay the CWMU price to get a tag. Somehow we need to get these numbers differentiated so that we're not counting CWMU and counting Blue Mountain deer and trying to say they're all the same deer because I can't hunt those deer. None of most of these guys can. So there are a few different outlooks of what we need to do to figure out deer population sizes and what's available to the public.

Charlie Tracy- I think our biggest problem with deer are the predators. You have people that love to kill predators but they get upset because we're going to kill too many of them. In our area I think that the biggest problem is predators. Cutting the number of days and tags is fine but I think that we need to step up our predator control. They're getting the crap knocked out of them from both sides, us and the predators.

Bill Bates- Which predators are you talking about?

Charlie- Bears, coyotes all of them, mountain lions. We have more predators now than we did in the 80's, 70's or 60's. I mean there are tons of them. We used to have full time employees of the state taking care of predators for us. Those predators were kept way down compared to today.

Bill- There still are full time employees that work on coyotes and handle depredating cougars and bear.

Charlie- Yeah, but just depredating. I think that they went after...whether they were supposed to or not, I don't know. But I still think they aggressively went after them and kept them way lower than they are now.

Wayne Hoskisson: For one thing, I don't think that predators are a problem. In fact, if you start eliminating predators, you need to think about chronic wasting disease now. You'd have really problems after a while. Predators are probably more crucial to the function of biological communities than any of these other ideas that we're talking about. I think by talking about cutting the number of permits, the number of days, predators and all those things, we are sort of missing the boat. What we really need to talk about is why it is we don't have as many deer. I think it has a lot to do with habitat than anything we're doing. In terms of trying to control or not control deer, we are just not looking at the whole picture. We're just looking at a very narrow scope of what's going on out there.

Derris Jones- I'd like a little clarification of the deer management plan. Does it call for 15 bucks per 100 does or does it call for a range? 15-20 or 25?

Anis- It's 15-25 but the trigger is when it falls below 15.

Derris- That's what is specified? When it falls below 15?

Anis- Yeah.

Derris- Ok. When is the deer management plan up for revision?

Anis- This is the first year this plan has been in place. Its five years.

Derris- So we're four years out before we can get back into that.

Anis- Correct.

Derris- I would also like to make a comment. I think there is some confusion on the bucks verses total deer population. There's no question that the southeast region's deer populations are down and until those populations get back up to objective, it's going to be a slow process of maintaining that buck to doe ratio at 15 or better. The buck/doe ratio, 15 bucks per 100 does is, I'm positive the literature is going to tell you, it's plenty adequate to get conception in every doe that is out there. So the fact that the deer population isn't growing, isn't that the bucks aren't covering the does. The does are getting bred. What's happening to the fawns is the million dollar question. That's the question that needs to be answered, so we know what the solution is going to be. Until we get the research out there to determine whether its predators, whether it's habitat, where we need to focus and right now, we're just kind of shot-gunning everywhere and we're spending a lot of money on habitat, we're spending some money on predator control. If we need to take more predators, these are the RAC meetings we need to concentrate on-- increasing sport harvesting of predators. Coyotes aren't protected. Everybody should promise to kill as many coyotes you can. I just want the RAC members to kind of focus on to really help this deer herd. We need to get fawn survival growing into adulthood so half those fawns will be bucks. The more bucks we've got out there, the more survival we'll have, and pretty soon we'll have big bucks again. So just saving a few bucks one year is not going to fix the problem. Its a lot bigger.

Chris Micoz- Other states have higher buck to doe ratios. People say the hunts are better quality. Is it just because the breeding is getting taken care of with the 15 bucks? Is it

maybe just the habitat or predator control that's making other states have better quality hunts?

Derris- It depends on what states you're talking about. Some states have a lot more deer habitat than Utah does. We have isolated mountains. Colorado has a lot.

Anis- They have higher buck to doe ratios, but they don't have healthier populations. The two don't coexist. They don't. I talk to their biologists everyday. They have higher buck to doe ratios because they kill fewer bucks. We could do that too, if we cut our hunting population in half, so only half the people could hunt.

RAC member- Sounds good to me.

Anis- Yeah it sounds good to you but to the general public, I'm sure it does not sound good. This is what we're trying to juggle.

Travis Pehrson: That is for the youth, and everybody to have five days? Is that for all seasons or just the rifle hunt?

Terry Sanslow: The rifle hunt. And that should also, if we're going to cut it and do the five day, you should cut the archery and muzzloader.

Kevin Albrecht: Wouldn't that make it the 45% that we discussed earlier?

Terry: If you want to restate that and clarify it.

Kevin: I would like to make the motion that we have a five day season for the rifle hunt that would as well have the 45% cut in days for all additional weapons.

Terry: Any questions? Ok the motion is to go to a five day rifle hunt in the S.E. and reduce the archery and muzzloader hunts by 45% on those days. That was seconded by Todd Huntington.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to reduce the general season rifle hunt in the southeastern region to five days in 2010 and reduce the length of all other general season hunts by 45%

Seconded by Todd Huntington

Motion passed with one dissenting vote cast by Derris Jones

Travis Pehrson- Ok, as far as the buck to doe ratios, maybe that could be done when they do the plan. Can we reduce tag numbers?

Bill Bates- I think that would be in the March meeting.

Anis- Yeah, we won't set permit numbers until then.

Travis Pehrson- So we can't recommend increasing buck to doe ratio right now? From 15 to 20?

Anis- You could, but that would mean redoing the statewide plan. It's not a small thing.

Terry Sanslow-If you want to make a motion to recommend that you can.

Travis Pehrson-I make a motion that if possible we have the mule deer committee revamp their mule deer plan for the next four years to raise the buck to doe ratio minimum from 15 to 20 bucks per 100 does. Make the range from 15-25 to 20-30 bucks per 100 does.

Derris Jones- It sounds like the trigger is the important thing to specify when the trigger kicks in for a five day season.

Travis- The trigger now is 10, right?

Anis- 15

Travis- For a five day season?

Anis- Yes, once it falls below 15 to 10 is when we close the unit and make it a limited entry unit.

Travis-I move to make the trigger 25, and if it falls below 25, it triggers a five day hunt. And if it's over 25 bucks per 100 does, make it a nine day hunt.

Terry Sanslow-So the motion is to move to 25 the trigger the five day hunt.

Anis-That kind of defeats what you just voted, because you already made the whole region five days. It makes no sense to have the trigger be 25, when you shorten it to five days. But you guys can do it.

Bill Bates-What you're saying, Anis, is that the board still has the prerogative to make a five day season in the southeast region.

Anis-Yeah, that was the motion that just passed here.

Bill- So this may not be necessary.

Derris- I think what Travis is interested in is not having this argument next time. If we get the trigger to 25, then you'll come with the recommendation for a five day hunt when it's below.

Anis-Right, which would be perpetual.

Terry Sanslow-The Motion by Travis is to reconvene the mule deer committee and have them revamp their plan to change the trigger to 25 bucks per 100 does. Seconded by Laura Kamala.

Jeff Horrocks- We voted to make a five day hunt for all ages. Now we're going to change that. If we don't have 25 bucks per 100 does, then it would trigger a five day hunt? I fail to see how that's going to build a herd.

Terry- That's the motion and you can either vote for or against it.

Kevin Albrecht-We're already under 25, so it's still going to make it a five day hunt.

Wayne Hoskisson-If we're already asking the committee to reconsider this raise of the buck to doe ratio, it should be based on sound criteria. It shouldn't be because we want something different.

Kevin Albrecht-I'll speak a little on the deer committee. There were two full meetings where the decision was discussed on the buck to doe ratio. There was a lot of discussion of taking the trigger from 15 to 20. The numbers were run to see what number of permits would have to be cut in Utah to get the 20 bucks per 100 does on a statewide basis.

Correct me if I'm wrong but I think it was about a 50% cut in total hunters.

Anis- No. It was about 20% to cut it five and about 50% to cut it to ten. So to go from 15 to 25, you would have to cut the hunter base by half. Just shortening days is not going to do it.

Kevin- And that was the one reason why it was discussed at length to try and get some quality back but the reason why that was dropped was because it was felt that getting hunters in Utah to 50% would probably not pass the Wildlife Board.

Anis-Everything that has been discussed here was discussed by the statewide committee. So there is nothing new that came out here and you need to know that we struggle with a lot of this stuff, but you have to take a lot of things into consideration.

Travis- Can they make a criteria to cut the tags to a point until we meet a certain objective before we start increasing the amount of hunters in the field?

Anis- Anything is doable.

Travis- So cut it in half every year until we reach objective and then we can start increasing the amount of hunters. Most people have made comments and said stuff that they don't care if the tags get cut.

Anis- Until they can't hunt and then they will care, because that's what will happen. Half of you here will not be able to hunt. That's what we're faced with. When we asked the public, they were not willing to do what some of you here are willing to do.

Terry- Ok we have a motion on the floor. If there are no more questions then we will go to a vote.

VOTING

Motion was made by Travis Pehrson moved to have the mule deer committee revamp their mule deer plan for the next four years to raise the buck to doe ratio minimum from 15 to 20 bucks per 100 does. Change the range from 15-25 to 20-30 bucks per 100 does.

Seconded by Laura Kamala

Motion failed with two in favor of the motion and the rest voting against the motion.

Walt Maldonado- Anis do you agree with Derris that the problem is the fawn count?

Anis- Yeah

Walt- You're the man in charge and you agree and Derris has spent many years out in the field and he agrees. I'm sure there's a lot more people like you that also agree. Why isn't all the focus and money and everything going in that direction to find out what the heck is going on?

Anis- A lot of the money is going in that direction.

Walt- I mean double the money if we know the problem. You know the problem, he knows the problem, now I know the problem.

Anis- We are focusing on it and we are starting to do some research to find out exactly what it is. The hard thing to find out is that you can't monitor every fawn out there so you don't know. Some are dying because of malnutrition, which is habitat related. Some are dying because of predators so it's an additive thing. To try to pinpoint which is more than the other is where the hard part is.

Bill Bates-Anis, are you initiating some research?

Anis- Yeah we are initiating some research to look at fawn survival. This is over winter survival. We were hoping to get some research to look at from zero to six months to see what's going on.

Bill-Specifically in our region, which areas are you going to research?

Anis-The Abajo's, the San Juan and part of the Manti. We're heading down that road.

What I need to stress is reducing buck harvest isn't going to help your population because every buck that's left over after this season is going to be competing with a doe in winter. Just limiting buck harvest is not going to save your population. So closing a unit, reducing buck harvest isn't always the answer even though it seems like it, right off the bat. That's not going to increase the population. Having more fawns hit the ground is going to increase the population and make it to a year old.

Travis Pehrson-People want to go out and see a mature buck on their hunt, not just see a spike or a two point.

Anis-I'm with you, that's what I want too. But to get to that saving the buck is not going to help. Growing a fawn is going to get you that. Because there is enough bucks to service the does.

Travis-Right, you want more bucks to see in the field not a minimum of 15 bucks.

Anis-I agree, but there is a limiting factor and part of that limiting factor is winter. So if you save that buck, he is competing with the doe. It's a lot more complex than saving bucks. Saving bucks can be a detriment sometimes rather than a help to the population.

Laura Kamala-Do deer that are infected with CWD give birth, and if so, how does that affect them?

Anis-They do. It depends on what shape the doe is in when she conceives. If she's in poor enough condition, she won't cycle. Early on in the disease they can conceive and they will have a fawn. As they progress in the disease, they're not in good enough shape to cycle, so they won't reproduce.

Laura-Do you have any information about the condition of the fawns?

Anis-Usually they are born fine but they will contract the disease from the mom. It's a slow enough disease that they are usually two or three years old before they succumb to it. It eats their brain slowly.

Terry Sanslow-Ok, we need to move on. Are there any more motions as far as deer go?

Derris Jones-I'll move that we accept the remainder of the presentation.

Terry Sanslow: Ok, motion by Derris to accept the remainder of the bucks and bulls presentation. Is there a second?

Kevin Albrecht: I'll second that.

Terry: Seconded by Kevin. Are there any questions? Motion to accept the remainder of the bucks and bulls presentation, all in favor? Opposed? (Todd Huntington).

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the remainder of the bucks and bulls presentation.

Seconded by Kevin Albrecht

Motion passed with one dissenting vote cast by Todd Huntington

5) Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment (Action)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Terry Sanslow-Are there any questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones-The CWMU on the Paunsaugunt--what age class are they managing for?

Anis-I'm assuming they're getting the same age harvests.

Derris-Same as the unit?

Anis-Yes, same as the unit.

Derris-They were managing for five year old bucks as well?

Anis-No, they are trying to take the oldest bucks that they can harvest but they do end up getting about the same percentage as the rest of the unit.

Derris-In their management plan, don't they have to indicate a certain age?

Anis-No, they don't have to specify an age group.

Terry Sanslow-are there any questions or comments from the audience?

Questions from the Public

(None)

Comments from the Public

James Gilson-I wanted to make a comment on the last agenda item.

Terry:-No, James that's closed.

James-No, it's part of my comment. They discussed whether or not we could make an amendment to change the deer management plan and the next item is the amendment to the deer management plan. I want to make a comment that these plans are reviewed every year. They are reviewed by the public and the RACs and if the RAC so feels that an item should be looked at and reviewed, then I encourage you to do exactly that. We're told in one meeting that you can't change the plan and in the next meeting the division shows up with an amendment. In this case,

they just waited until the next item I think that that's kind of wrong. I just want to encourage you that if you see something that needs to be looked at, then to do so.

Terry-Jim, I want to apologize I thought that you were going back to the last item.

James-It's ok.

Terry-Are there any more comments from the audience?

Mark Grace: My son and I just returned from a hunt in Colorado last week. We returned from a quality hunt...(couldn't hear the rest)

Chris Micoz-Mark I can't hear you, could you step up?

Mark-Yeah, the hunt that my son and I just went on in Colorado, he's 16 years old...(couldn't hear the rest of comment)

Terry-I have a question. Is this a comment on the statewide deer management plan amendment that we're dealing with right now?

Mark-No. I thought it was just time to comment.

Terry-Well right now we're on the deer management plan amendment. Thank you, sir.

Are there any more comments from the audience? It is now closed to the audience.

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht-Originally, as the Mule Deer Committee, we talked and came up with this and when it went to the Wildlife Board it was recommended to increase, but I don't think the intent was to keep the quality there. I don't think they realized that when this happened they would have to cut tags. They would continue to cut tags yearly because the age class would not be met. So they reconvened the committee to address that to keep the quality where it was and not have to continually cut tags back. With that comment I would like to make a motion that we accept the presentation as presented.

Derris Jones-I would like to second that.

Terry Sanslow-Motion by Kevin to accept the statewide deer management plan amendment and seconded by Derris Jones. Are there any questions? All in favor?

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the rest of the statewide deer management plan as presented

Seconded by Derris Jones

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Terry Sanslow-Before we get started with the CWMU presentation, I'd like to recognize two of the Wildlife Board members here. We have Jake Albrecht and Keele Johnson here and a past board member, Lee Howard. So if you really have something to complain about, jump those two guys. Lee is exempt. Ok, Boyde are you ready with the CWMU presentation?

Boyde-If you want me to be, then I'm ready.

Terry-Let's go.

6) CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 Amendment **(Action)**

- **Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Terry Sanslow-Are there any questions from the RAC?

Terry Sanslow asked for clarification on split recommendations.

Boyde Blackwell-That means that the CWMU is asking for something different than the division's recommendations.

Terry Sanslow-We have all received a letter from a landowner association...(couldn't hear the rest of the comment)

Boyde Blackwell-We will address landowner associations later on in the presentation.

Travis Pehrson-Asked about the \$15,000 crop damage compensation to Spring Creek-Dodge and Summit Point CWMU and whether it was a one-time or an on-going payment.

Boyde Blackwell-By rule, a CWMU has to put together a management plan to decide how they are going to deal with damages or problems with surrounding landowners. That's what they said they would do. They would put that money toward damages. Normally, the division pays those damages. The tag increase is to compensate for the damage for which the division is liable. Our goal is to reduce the overall elk and deer population because of the damages that we have been paying, which have been extremely high.

Bill Bates-I think we should clarify this. The division asked them to do this. They didn't come to us. We met with them and said that we agreed to pay the damages. What will happen is that between Summit Point and Spring Creek-Dodge, we will pay \$20,000. \$15,000 from Spring Creek and \$5,000 from the Summit Point, which will go into an annual fund. If they don't use it one year, it can be used in future years. It will be on-going, until it is used up.

Charlie Tracy-So does that money go into a pool to help pay for damages of adjacent landowners?

Bill Bates-Everyone is going to get paid equally. Last year we paid \$180,000 in San Juan County. The \$20,000 helps pay for damages in this situation, although we don't anticipate paying that amount of damages in the future.

Boyde Blackwell-We have over \$300,000 statewide to pay for those kinds of damages.

Bill Bates-Asked Guy Wallace what the permit increase was.

Guy Wallace-It has doubled.

Travis Pehrson-Well, that's not a very good trade-off for you guys to give them \$20,000.

Boyde Blackwell-The over-riding goal is to reduce the population and reduce the damage payments.

Bill Bates-I don't think they are doubling the amount of money they are getting. We need to reduce the elk population there. That's our concern.

Travis Pehrson-Asked about the arrangement with the Redd Ranch CWMU.

Bill Bates-Redd Ranch has not suffered from depredation losses and is not in the same type of situation.

Charlie Tracy-Do we need to give these landowners a few more doe tags? Is that what we are trying to do here?

Travis Pehrson-Should we give adjacent landowners a few more bull elk tags?

Boyde Blackwell-Our goal is not to provide surrounding landowners a bull tag to compensate for damages. Our goal is to get rid of the animals that are causing the damages. If we are at a point, where giving a bull tag will stop us from having to pay damages, we will probably do that, but that's not what our goal is. Our goal is to have populations low enough that we don't suffer those damages. We have to get to the point where we don't have the damages and we are not there yet.

Guy Wallace-A lot of young bulls are causing damage out there and these are bulls that aren't harvested by the CWMUs, and these are the ones we need to take care of.

Charlie Tracy-Was the any bull elk hunt successful?

Guy Wallace- It wasn't the free-for-all we thought it would be. Some bulls were harvested, but not like we thought it would be.

Boyde Blackwell-We will know more after the survey results come in.

Guy Wallace-I had more calls about that hunt than any other. People thought they would be San Juan elk and would be easy to get, but they found out they were on private land and were very discouraged.

Kevin Albrecht-Is the split only on the Alton and not on the Spring Creek-Dodge CWMU?

Boyde Blackwell-Only on the Alton unit. They are requesting a total of five management buck permits.

Derris Jones-Are you objecting to the buck: doe ratio on the Paunsagunt unit?

Boyde Blackwell-Yes.

Anis Aoude-We are around 55:100 buck: doe ratio.

Derris Jones-So you are at objective?

Anis Aoude-Yes, the buck: doe ratio is 40-50.

Derris Jones-So this is a new system?

Boyde Blackwell-Yes, this is a new system. We don't know how it will work yet. We will be taking some management bucks and don't know how the system will work at this time.

Derris Jones-Is this the only unit with that kind of a hunt?

Boyde Blackwell-Yes.

Kevin Albrecht-The DWR wants to wait and see what the management tags do on the unit.

Terry Sanslow-Are there any questions or comments from the audience?

Questions from the Public

(None)

Comments from the Public

(No comments)

RAC Discussion

Travis Pehrson-I wanted to comment on the Spring Creek-Dodge CWMU. I wonder if we could hunt the damaging bulls during June, July and August and not wait until elk migrate from the San Juan unit.

Guy Wallace-We have tried early depredation hunts and found that the elk just go nocturnal and the bulls aren't harvested. We have also had people who don't want to hunt when it's that hot. The bulls that are hunted on the any bull hunt are resident bulls, not from the San Juan unit.

Kevin Albrecht-I was at the meeting at the southern region last night, and they had a problem with the way the Paunsagunt CWMU management hunt is being addressed. Kevin proposed to implement the management hunts as proposed.

Terry Sanslow-They want to lower the buck: doe ratio and you seem to want to raise it. Do you want that to be a motion?

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the division's proposal to allow the five management bucks permits for the Paunsagunt CWMU.

Seconded by Jeff Horrocks

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

Terry Sanslow-We need a motion to accept the rest of the CWMU proposals as presented.

Kevin Albrecht-I will make a motion.

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the remainder of the CWMU Permit Numbers for 2010 as presented

Seconded by Derris Jones

In Favor: One opposing vote cast by Travis Pehrson

Motion passed

6B) Landowner Permit Number Recommendations for 2010 (Action)

- Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Terry Sanslow-Questions from the RAC?

Charlie Tracy-Asked about the boundary for the San Juan landowner association.

Guy Wallace-(I couldn't hear his answer. He was in the back of the room.)

Questions from the Public

Terry Sanslow-Questions from the audience?

(None)

Comments from the Public

Terry Sanslow-Comments from the audience?

(None)

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones asked about the 10% permit reduction on the Paunsagunt.

Boyde Blackwell-They failed to meet their objectives last year.

Terry Sanslow-One thing we need to deal with is Alton, whether we want to go with the DWR recommendation and the management buck permits.

Travis Pehrson-The Spring Creek-Dodge and Summit Point were given a total of 46 elk permits, and with that we can say good bye to the San Juan elk herd. It will be just like our deer herd.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Landowner Association permit numbers as presented.

Seconded by Charlie Tracy

In Favor: One opposing vote cast by Travis Pehrson

Motion passed.

6C) Rule R657-37 Amendment (Action)

- Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Bill Bates-Does the rule amendment apply to both CWMUs and landowner associations?

Boyde Blackwell--A CWMU is by definition also a landowner association.

Derris Jones-Does a 501c3 organization have to accept the voucher?

Boyde Blackwell-Correct.

Derris Jones-Does the voucher go from one 501c3 to another?

Boyde Blackwell-No. It goes to one 501c3 organization and cannot be sold or traded.

Derris Jones-What about the one year lag time?

Boyde Blackwell-That is for a voucher that was not used the previous year.

Kevin Albrecht-This wouldn't fit in to the category of a door prize.

Boyde Blackwell-That's right. It must be for a charitable cause.

Questions from the Public

(None)

Comments from the Public

Jeff Mobbitt-This looks like a means for a business or organization to count the tag as a tax write-off.

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones-I have the same concern as Mr. Mobbitt.

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept Rule R657-37 amendment with the stipulation that the DWR has the right to review and approve the recipient.

Seconded by Kevin Albrecht

In Favor: One opposing vote cast by Travis Pehrson

Motion passed

7) Moose Management Plan (Action)

- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Chris Micoz-What efforts are being made to improve moose habitat in the west?

Anis Aoude-We are working with the U.S. Forest Service to do prescribed burning.

Terry Sanslow-In your report, it says that four radioed moose on the Manti were killed by mountain lions. Is that a fluke?

Anis Aoude-It could have been a fluke, but it's something that did happen. It is unusual.

Travis Pehrson-There's a rumor that a moose was spotted on the LaSal Mountains this year.

Anis Aoude-Some came from Colorado.

Derris Jones asked Kevin Albrecht about prescribed burns on the Manti unit.

Kevin Albrecht-There just hasn't been any moose reproduction at all. We have proposed several areas for prescribed burns for aspen regeneration. So far, the success has been tremendous and we hope to do more of that.

Derris Jones-If the U.S. Forest Service did more of that, would moose transplants be considered.

Anis Aoude-It's not so much the aspen cover as the latitude. The Fish Lake has a lot of aspens. The Manti is just too far south. Right now, there's not sufficient habitat. The regions would have to first put management plans together to demonstrate their ability to support a moose population.

Derris Jones-Do you have a transplant list for moose?

Anis Aoude-No.

Derris Jones asked about moose distribution across the United States.

Anis Aoude said that moose distribution in the west seems to be receding further north, while in the east they seem to be edging southward.

Kevin Albrecht commented about the effect of wolves on moose distribution.

Anis Aoude-Wolves do control moose distribution elsewhere. In Utah, our population is fairly stable.

Questions from the Public

(None)

Comments from the Public

(None)

RAC Discussion

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kevin Albrecht to accept the Moose Management Plan as presented
Seconded by Travis Pehrson**

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

- 8) **2011 Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Hunt Structure (Information)**
- **Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Todd Huntington-In the first year of the split rifle season, you intend to split the permits 50-50, and then you'd adjust that based on hunter success, clarify how that would work with limited entry hunts.

Anis Aoude-On some units the deer migrate early so the split might be different from unit to unit.
Kevin Albrecht-Will hunters be able to choose only one season?

Anis Aoude-Right.

Travis Pehrson-You have to take into consideration the interference with those who have a muzzleloader elk or deer permit and how the split season may affect them. Secondly, two nine day deer hunts will be detrimental to the deer herd and will reduce hunter success.

Anis Aoude-Remember there will be only half the people for each hunt.

Travis Pehrson-My recommendation would be to put the muzzleloader season before the rifle hunts.

Derris Jones-Asked how many spike bull hunters there would be.

Anis Aoude-12,000 spike bull hunters and more than 60,000 general season deer hunters.

Terry Sanslow-As far as the dedicated hunters are concerned, will they have to choose between the early and late season hunts?

Anis Aoude-We haven't really plugged that into the equation yet. I think they will have to pick one or the other.

Questions from the Public

Eric Luke-Are you going to have the general season elk hunters hunting along side the limited entry deer hunters on a unit like Thousand Lakes?

Anis Aoude-That's an issue to be worked out.

Kent Grain questioned the stresses placed on law enforcement as they try to meet the demands of two deer hunts.

Jeff Mobbitt questioned the efficacy of over-hunting deer with the two season strategy.

Anis Aoude-We currently run back to back hunts for deer and elk and the new strategy wouldn't offer any more impact than already occurs.

Scott Christensen-Do you feel this new strategy would help the state's deer herd?

Anis Aoude-We are only hunting bucks and this won't have an effect on the deer population. It's the doe numbers that affect the population size.

Comments from the Public

Ben Lowder of the Utah Bowmen's Association-The UBA is excited about the DWR proposal and supports the proposed hunting structure. We think it's a great opportunity to hunt deer and elk at the same time. We like the idea of starting hunts on specific dates.

Terry Sanslow commented that archers get 65 days to hunt with the extended season, and asked if the UBA be agreeable to shortening the general archery season and shortening some of the extended hunts?

Ben Lowder-No. It doesn't make much of a difference in terms of the low hunter success rate had by archers.

Terry Sanslow-But you are still out in the field with the opportunity to hunt. The point is that everyone else is making concessions. It appears to me that you guys are a little bit selfish, since rifle hunters are conceding to a five day season.

Ryan Thornock of Utah Farmers-We are concerned about moving the deer hunt to the first of October, because the majority of the U.S. Forest Service grazing permits go until the 15th of October, so there's a lot of gathering of livestock during that time. That would cause a lot more problems with interactions between hunters and livestock men.

James Gilson-Expressed concern that every year there are more application fees for hunts. In the proposed hunt structure, it looks like there may be an application fee for a spike or any bull tag.

James Gilson-Asked about the doe deer estrus.

Bill Bates-It peaks about mid-November in the southern part of the state.

Anis Aoude-It can vary by two to three weeks.

James Gilson-Expressed concern about a late season deer hunt that may get too close to the rut.

Eric Luke and Lance Roberts, representing a group of sportsmen, not affiliated with any group, presented a PowerPoint presentation. Lance Roberts provided a hand-out to RAC members as well. He represented concerned citizens about the deer herd in southeast and southern Utah. They asked that their proposal go on to the Utah Wildlife Board for consideration. They wish to change mule deer hunting from regional boundaries to smaller management units. They presented hypothetical boundaries, and said that neighboring states have similar small boundaries, which facilitates more specific management by smaller deer units. This facilitates maximum flexibility in management.

Delos Christensen-Expressed his discouragement about the state of Utah's deer herds.

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion made by Kevin Albrecht that the Wildlife Board explore and investigate the proposal just presented to manage mule deer on a smaller unit basis.

Seconded by Todd Huntington

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Travis Pehrson-Limited entry muzzleloader elk hunters need to be given more consideration with longer season lengths and more spacing between general rifle deer hunters—at least seven days in order to improve their chances of success.

Charlie Tracy talked about the problems associated with bringing cattle off the mountain during the hunting season. He spoke of conflicts with hunters in the field. Spoke against the concept of a dual deer general season rifle hunts.

Kevin Albrecht-We have a responsibility as RAC members to study the options and weigh the pros and cons. He spoke in favor of the proposal to make smaller hunting units for deer.

Walt Maldonado spoke against changing the muzzleloader season, first from November and then to September, and finally to the new proposal. Now we will have to go after the rifle hunt and this will result in poorer success and hunter dissatisfaction. Something as simple as the spike hunt on the Book Cliffs ruined limited entry deer rifle hunting. Walt spoke in favor of managing deer in smaller units. Squeezing the muzzleloader deer hunt between two rifle hunts is not fair.

Todd Huntington-I would like to second what Walt said. Todd mentioned a stack of emails he had received and all expressed opposition to the proposed placement of the muzzleloader hunt between the two rifle hunts. The first rifle hunt will do a lot of damage with the space of time between it and the archery hunt.

Travis Pehrson-Most emails I received favor two short 5-day seasons rather than 9-day seasons. Nine days is too much. The muzzleloader season placement was also a big concern.

Kevin Albrecht asked Anis if there will be modifications to the proposed hunt structure, as public comment comes in, or do we have to capture all this and submit it at one time?

Anis Aoude-We will modify the proposal and provide further opportunity to comment.

Walt Maldonado-Can we get this information out to the public by the Internet, so that there's widespread opportunity to comment?

Anis Aoude-We have already launched a big media campaign to get the word out. It's been in the papers, on television and radio. We are planning on doing a formal survey on the hunt structure proposals as well.

Walt Maldonado-We advertised the late season opener on the LaSal's and we still had a lot of people who were unaware of the change.

Anis Aoude-That's always going to happen. We will never reach everybody, but we will attempt to reach as many people as possible.

Travis Pehrson asked about deer management plans and hunt structure.

Anis Aoude-None of our species management plans include a hunt structure.

9) **Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality (Information)**
- **Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Charlie Tracy-Do the deer fences really work?

Anis Aoude-No. After a while they bend and develop holes. Animals go in and out and sometimes are trapped on the highway. We hope to do more overpasses and underpasses which are a lot more effective.

Questions from the Public

(None)

Comments from the Public

(None)

RAC Discussion

Travis Pehrson commented that the graph showing distribution and number of deer kills did not include San Juan County, where a great many occur.

Kevin Albrecht-I think this is the single biggest issue that we can control. This has an immediate effect rather than being 20 years out. Kevin complimented the DWR on what it has done and encouraged everyone to work together to save the deer herds from excessive highway mortality.

VOTING

Motion made by Kevin Albrecht to pursue an initiative to increase federal highway funds for wildlife fencing and crossings plus all tools that will help reduce highway mortality.

Seconded by Travis Pehrson

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

75 in attendance

Next RAC meeting Wednesday, December 9th at the John Wesley Powell Museum, 1765 E. Main in Green River.

Wildlife Board Meeting, Dec. 2-3, 9 a.m., DNR Board room, 1594 W. North Temple