

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver High School, Beaver, UT
April 03, 2018 5:00 p.m.

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous. 10-0

2. BUCKS, BULLS, AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018

MOTION FOR DEER: Accept the DWR recommendations for deer with the exception of Pine Valley - monitor the new hunt for 1 year before increasing tags

- Motion to amend the original motion to include the reduction of 250 permits on the Manti
- Amendment passes 10-0

VOTE: Amended motion passes 8-2

MOTION FOR ELK: Approve elk recommendations with the exception of keeping the Monroe bull tags at 37

- Attempt to Amend motion to also keep tags the same as last year on the Fish Lake and the Manti - fails for lack of 2nd

VOTE: Motion passes 7-3

MOTION FOR OIAL: Accept the balance except reduce sheep tags on the Wasatch units from 3 to 2

VOTE: Passes 9-1

3. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018

MOTION: Motion to ask the Wildlife Board to look into the impacts that muzzleloader deer hunters that also have cow tags are having on trophy bulls hunters

VOTE: Passed 7-3

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented

VOTE: Passed Unanimous 10-0

4. 2018 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To Accept as Presented

VOTE: Passed Unanimous 9-0 with 1 Abstention

5. POACHING REPORTED REWARD PERMIT PROGRAM CHANGES

MOTION: To accept as Presented

VOTE: Passed Unanimous 10-0

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT**

April 2, 2018 7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Dave Black Sean Kelly Braydon Richmond Rusty Aiken Craig Laub Tammy Pearson Gene Boardman Verland King Wade Heaton Riley Roberts Brian Johnson	Johnny Neil Denise Gilgen Philip Tuttle Kevin Bunnell Tyrell Orme Cody Evans Teresa Griffin Josh Pollock Vance Mumford Jason Nichols Mike Wardle Kent Hersey Kyle Christensen Chris Wood Jace Taylor David Smedley Covy Jones Selena Yardley J Sherley Guy Wallace Wade Paskett Jeremy Wilcox Jim Lamb Micah Evans Curtis Roundy	Donny Hunter Steve Dalton Kevin Albrecht	

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. There were approximately 26 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Braydon Richmond made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded motion. 10-0 Unanimous

**Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:
Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Allow me to share the last Wildlife Board with their recommendation from clear back to the first part of January. The Board went back and forth. The Division modified our recommendations a little bit based on input that came from the RAC relative to some requests for the Book Cliffs, the La Sals and the Bottle Mountains, and in the end, after a little bit of confusion, the Board asked the recommendations that were proposed, be modified and the proposal came very close to what this RAC recommended as well. As far as the regional update, I'll be brief, given the potential length of our agenda tonight. I first wanted to report that our aquatics crew has been out doing some of their surveys. They've started their gill nets on some of the mid elevation lakes. They've, so far surveyed Minersville, Newcastle and Otter Creek, and they all look really really good. Spring fishing should be fantastic. There's lots of rainbows, gills, and wipers, etc. You know, Tammy joined our crew out in Minersville. Is there anything you'd like to add to that, Tammy?

Tammy: No. Thanks.

Kevin: One other thing that I wanted to mention is that we have kind of a neat event coming up in April on the 16th in St. George at the Tawa pond which is just off the Snow Canyon Parkway. Every year, the Southern Utah Anglers sponsor a special needs fishing event for special needs kids in schools in the Washington County School District. If you ever want just a feel good day, you should attend with these fishermen. They start about 9:00 and go until about 2:00. That's a neat event. They want to give those kids an experience fishing in a way that they remember and that they fully understand. That's something that they look forward to. And then just before I pass the mic back to Dave, just a reminder to the members of the RAC not to have conversations with people that aren't at the mic. Had a little bit of that at our last RAC meeting with people in the audience. That makes it really difficult for us to capture, um, the meeting. So, if we need to call somebody backup, let's bring them back up to the mic. We want to make sure we get all the information, but we can't be having conversations from the RAC up here with people in the audience that are speaking from wherever they are sitting and not speaking into the mic because then we have no way to capture that and we can't transcribe that. Dave is there anything you want to add to that?

Dave Black: I would just like to say that we want to make sure the Wildlife Board up in Salt Lake gets to hear all of our conversations and concerns. You know we have two members here today and I failed to recognize those and I'd like to right now-- Don Hunter and Steve Dalton, from the Salt Lake Wildlife Board, who we'd like to welcome to our meeting. The other members of the Board aren't going to be able to hear all of our conversations which have been recorded. We want to make sure you have all your questions answered that you have the information you need to vote on an item and to capture it in the minutes. So remember that. So anyway, we'll move on to our next item--which is item # 5 on the agenda. This will be Covy Jones and it's on the use of airbows, and he wanted you to know that this isn't necessarily a presentation from the DWR. It's an informational presentation. He can explain a little bit better as we go.

5. Use of Airbows-Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator.

Covy Jones: Yeah, this presentation actually won't be given by the division. We were approached by a committee that markets and sells these as a useful hunting weapon. What the division or what we're really looking for here is public input. We don't have a position; we don't have a feeling or where we should go with this or what we should do. We just want to know how the public feels about it and where it would fit if the weapon were used in Utah and where. Stacy, you reminded me of this so I better

say it. Everybody knows you listen to Stacy, so we'll take 15 minutes for the presentation, comments.

Steve Roll: Mr. chair, ladies, and gentlemen of the RAC, thank you for taking your time to see me. I know you had to meet anyway, but thanks for listening to me tonight. I represent Shooting Edge. We are here to provide technically advanced tools for the hunting and sporting man and woman. The founder is Marvin Carlston. I don't know how many of you might know him or have ever met him. He's from Utah, born and bred. He's the inventor, he's actually the founder of Gold Tip, if anybody's ever used a graphite arrow shaft, you can blame Marvin...he's the guy that actually invented it and this too, this Airbolt is a graphite arrow shaft. We have a number of other products, but that's not why we're here. The Airbolt makes an air gun a powerful hunting tool, more than capable of taking large game. It travels up to 500 feet per second, has over 238 plus pounds of energy, it's accurate at 30 yards. It can be accurate, if you practice, up to 80 yards, maybe 100. To give you a little history of air guns... and this I didn't know until I started working with Marvin on this project, but air guns have been around for 400 years. In fact, I believe the wind bush rifle, was the one that Lewis and Clark took with them and it was the one that they used to fire 20 rounds before it needed to be recharged, so it was, I guess, one of the first repeating rifles back in the day. So air guns are not new. What we're looking for is to have the Airbolt and the air gun designated as legal weapon. Let me tell you why we think that might be a good choice. If any of you have ever fired an air gun or one of these. When we presented this at the outdoor expo up in Salt Lake and the Napa show out in Reno and a couple of other places, some of the older guys come in and go "Yeah, I just can't draw back a bow like I used to," or the younger guys have got a bad injury in their shoulder. There's almost no recoil on this weapon and it makes it easier for them to hunt, to continue hunting even if it's not their preferred weapon. It's also a great starter. We've got between 10 ??shockings?? (inaudible), 3 million views and our 6 million views on this package. We know there's a lot of interest out there. Now, granted, that's nationwide. But of course, we're looking for approval here in the state. There have been potential concerns in the past. Here's a quick video.

VIDEO PRESENTATION ON AIR BOWS/GUNS

Steve Roll: We didn't want to take more than 15 minutes, so if there are questions from the RAC, Mr. Chairman?

Dave Black: If there are any questions from the RAC, we should grab a mic as well.

Rusty Aiken: So under current?? but from what it says in here it is not capable of taking big game?

Steve Roll: It is capable of taking big game. That was the example, even though that was a white tail and the animals we have here are a lot larger. Anecdotally, when we were first testing this, one of the guys got a wild hare and had a junker dodge, (it wasn't a ram, but whatever the next model down was) and turned around and took a shot and it went through both doors. So it'll take down a large animal without a problem.

Dave Black: Tammy

Tammy Pearson: What kind of tips do you have? Are they varied? Soft point? Hollow point?

Steve Roll: Yes. Yes, in fact the man who helped invent the broadhead, the expandable broadhead, is Marvin Carlston as well. We've been testing a number of broadheads and with, I can't tell you the exact

model or description of it, but there's one particular broadhead, it cuts quite a hole. It can be very effective.

Dave Black: Sean

Sean Kelly: Uh you, were kind of thinking about using this during the muzzleloader season, is that correct?

Steve Roll: Well we wanted to get it approved for any legal weapon, but we expect it eventually. It does load through the muzzle so...

Sean Kelly: Is it..could it be suppressed? the noise on it? How quiet is that compared to the muzzleloader?

Steve Roll: I believe it's about a third of the decibels of a mm of a black powder gun?

Sean Kelly: Also, you mentioned working with one of the companies for the excise tax?

Steve Roll: Yes. we have some flyers down here. I can't give you the particulars. I can tell you roughly \$ 1.05 you pay for it--the bolt.

Sean Kelly: So you're just going to go with the arrows, not the weapon itself?

Steve Roll: The weapon itself is managed by a company out of Ohio and we have the exclusive on it for the state of Utah right now. I expect it'll go crazy if it's true, but our real concern, because an air gun is an air gun, but we're concerned about whether you can use the Airbolt.

Sean Kelly: Got ya.

Dave Black: Gene

Gene Boardman: How do you get up to that 3000 lbs. of pressure? What kind of compressor do you use?

Steve Roll: You have to use a pretty solid compressor to get up to that 3000. There's also a hand pump and you gotta be pretty stout to pump that hand pump. When we test it, we normally hook it up to a scuba tank, or if we charge it before we go out, we hook it up to the scuba tank and we can get it up to around 3000 lbs. It will then shoot, as you saw there was a curve, it will shoot about 18 to 20 times before it becomes useless.

Gene Boardman: Okay and will it shoot plugs as well as shot ?

Steve Roll: The air gun, yes, can shoot 50 caliber slugs and the air gun comes in different calibers. We're just looking at the 50 caliber right now, but it'll shoot slugs or shot. But we're mostly just shooting the air gun.

Dave Black: Anybody else from the RAC? Any questions or comments from the public? So this is the

second showing???

Steve Roll: This is the biggest showing I've seen at the RAC so far.

Dave Black- K. Thank you.

Steve Roll: Thank you.

Dave Black: We'll move on to action item #6, which is about Buck, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018. Covy Jones will be your presenter.

6. Buck, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018

-Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Manager

Covy Jones: That's perfect, thank you Mr. chair. My name's Covy Jones and I'm giving the Buck, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations. Starting with the general season and limited entry fee recommendations. I'll start with the harvest. There on the Y axis is the buck harvest and the X axis is the years, starting in 2008 with the buck harvest. And really the take home message is that the last three years we dropped from 2016 from a high there, but the last three years have been great, the best years of the buck harvest statewide. This last year, 2017, there were over 29,000 bucks harvested statewide--just about 30,000. We broke that 30,000 in 2016. We look at buck/doe ratio trends starting 1993. Again on the Y axis there's a possible hundred does and on the X axis, the year. We're managing a higher buck/doe ratio __ (inaudible) __ This is one of the changes in the early nineties and historically for Utah, probably around the eighties a lot of times. Our public said they'd like to see these numbers higher. We're still at the top of the range. You know there are two ranges. There's 15 to 17 bucks per a hundred does on some of our units and a lot of our southern units have 18 to 20. And statewide, this data excludes the units that are dominated by private land, statewide it's a very topical demand. Looking at the farm production trends, it's important to note that we looking for a population that's numbered, we like to see it at least 60, right around 60, moving up and down a little bit, but always right around that 60 mark. The last couple of years, we've dropped right below 60. And with that, we'll get into the 2018 demo season deer permit recommendations. So for 2017, we issued 89,050 permits. The 2018 recommendation is to make use of 2000 permits to 91,050. There's a couple of reasons for that. One, is that in some units where we had units (inaudible) ---we used some tools in the plan that we implemented in the early rifle season to spread some of that (inaudible). We kept running up against the wall--we're outside the plan and we're not managing what we agreed to with the public. We're not offering the opportunities that we should. And then also, in more modern times, because I know in the early nineties there was 150,000 ? (inaudible) the sense of counting was different??? And so, to make recommendations tonight for the plan that was agreed to, we kept getting pushed back there??? So in the last year plan, we have the ability to add that and a lot of the increase here is because of that??? So an overall increase of 2000 and no change on thirteen units. Um, an increase on ten and an increase on six. And one of the chances that's important to note here is that this is also a product of unit by unit management. It allows us to offer opportunities where we have it, cut where we need to to get back into the unit plan, and the objectives. Looking at this by region, in the northern region first, uh on the left side is the unit, you'll see two stars next to the units they implemented better in the beginning of open season, followed by the objective and what it's managed for, the next three years classification data, the

three year average, followed by the 2017 permits, and finally, the 2018 recommendations. So, we're recommending increases on the ??? Canyon, north of South Creek, the Kamas, and the Box Elder. For the southern region, again exceeding the objective there ??? (inaudible) On the southern region, the recommended increases are on the Fillmore, the Pine Valley, and also the southern region continues with a decrease on Fish Lake??, and an increase on south ???(inaudible).

Alright, one of the things, I think, before we continue on with this, when we look at the heart of the general season unit and what it's managed for, and we try to cut it in a little bit of both; ?a demand for? some quality, and with an increase for 20 bucks to 100 does, there's a lot of quality out there. But also, primarily, we manage these for opportunities to allow hunters the chance-ability to go out there and harvest a deer. You can't harvest a deer if you don't have a permit, you can't get out and hunt if you don't have a permit. In looking at some of the data from ___?___ study,? just keep this in mind with permits for the buck/doe ratio....? On the Pine Valley, for example, we'll rate it from 26, 24, 24?? In Colorado, when they evaluated this, that means the entire buck/doe ratio???? (inaudible) and certainly it was an out-of-state revision. On our limited entry units, obviously we do this. Um and we know that we have to _____ limit tags so we know that we're not maximizing the population. But on the Pine Valley, for example, when Colorado raised their buck/doe ratio from 20 to 25, we saw a 7.5 fawn per 100 doe decrease. So when you're running a unit like that, what I'm trying to say here is when we increase our buck/doe ratios, you also have take a decrease opportunity over time if you don't manage that to exactly what we've agreed to. I always say there's a thousand right ways to manage wildlife, but here's the clearer right way and it's our job as biologists to say, "Hey, if you get outside of this, there's going to be the negative consequences." And again, out to Pine Valley, the division has been very cognizant of the traveling of these?deer?, and that's one of the reasons why I recommended the release, so just keep that in mind as we go through the recommendations.

In the southeastern region, on the nine mile, they've implemented one of those early season rifle hunts there and recommending an increase. Personally, _____(inaudible) In the northeastern regions, although these are coming into the objective, they're decreasing trends in the north slope and the Wasatch Mountain views. These are two units that we really increased pretty much a lot (inaudible) so it makes sense to increase those if that trend is headed downward and come into that objective. On the south slope, _____(inaudible) _____. In the statewide management plan, these permits are set as long as we're meeting the criteria in the plan. So as long as 40 percent of the bucks harvested were at least five years of age or older, the permits remain the same. Both the Paunsaugunt and the Henry are _____(inaudible) and we're recommending they remain the same. We also have on these units, management buck hunts, and if we manage our buck/doe ratios, it's a managed buck hunt. (inaudible) ??? and we're recommending a slight decrease in the managed buck/doe _____(inaudible) In addition, on the Paunsaugunt, we're recommending a fourteen fulfillment. If you remember last fall we got ____ stuck up there. Recommending a fourteen for that. On the limited entry deer, the Book Cliffs, there is the top of the objective that we would've managed for recommending a slight increase there. Then the more sloped Summit. That hunt was going under 65? (inaudible) ___? 20 bucks on a tag, and so when we brought that back, the recommended units permits, it was just too high; we're recommending a decrease there. And then west (inaudible) I would recommend it at _____???? A look at the late season limited entry muzzleloader permits, and remember these permits come on and offline, but we recommend them in the fall so they base them with the previous year's classifications. We recommended, ??? (inaudible) based on the _____(inaudible). On the Beaver, we added that hunt in the fall, we're recommending 5 permits there. On the north slope, we added that _____(inaudible) there. ??? (inaudible) The classical bulls for Kaiparowits, it fell out and then it was a decrease in the Wasatch Mountains and it was recommended that a decrease be made for an overall _____(inaudible).

Here's the summary of the 2018 Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations. Cedar is the only one that is decreasing and that's primarily because of that north slope ____ (inaudible).

On the General Season Limited Entry Elk _____ (inaudible) set in the plan, as long as we're within the perimeters of the DWR, and we're recommending (???) permits for these _____???

On the Limited Entry Elk Permits breakdown. Overall, recommending a (inaudible) _____? For the 7 ½ to 8 year old units, there on the Beaver right at the very top end, recommending a very very slight increase. On the Book Cliffs, Little Creek, just below the 7 ½ wild mark, we're recommending a decrease there and the west, there's a decrease. This is one of the units with _____? elk paths (inaudible) and we're still trying to come into that _____ (inaudible). 6 ½ to 7, recommended a decrease on the Calf's Sow? of Mt. Dutton and a recommended increase on the Monroe on the southwest area. On the the 5 ½ to 6, the Central Mountains in Manti, recommending an increase there. This is one of the units at the very top of the page, that if you have the ability to offer opportunities to hunters here, then that's a good recommendation. Um, recommending an increase on the La Sal, La Sal Mountains, Five Mile__? and the Wasatch Mountains. On the north slope of Three Corners, recommending a decrease there and (inaudible) _____? In the 4 ½ to 5 year old units, recommending increases along the Box Elder Grouse Creek and the Piute Mountain.

Now to the 2018 Pronghorn Recommendations. You'll remember last fall, we brought forward a new pronghorn plan. When we looked at pronghorn, we realized that we were probably leaving a lot of opportunity on the table in unharvested populations. Last time we took it out on pronghorn, in 2008 and 2009 and the average does to the average buck was about 3.8 years old. We run around 700 bucks a__?__; so we've got a pretty good field for the average of bucks harvested. When we look at the pronghorn and the studies done on unharvested population, we're losing up to 20-25 percent of those animals, those bucks annually__? (inaudible). Another thing about pronghorn when we looked at these, there are several buck pronghorn that are 2 years old. After 2 years old, you don't get a lot of those (inaudible) _____ and we realized that we had more opportunity, so based on the data we collected in 2008 and 2009 and the fact that these pronghorn populations have increased, we haven't recommended a lot of increases. We're recommending an increase and then when we get those numbers back we'll adjust accordingly.

OIAL Issues.

Moose Permits: Again, a new moose plan allows us to offer some more opportunity there.

Bison: These are both cow and bull permits, so this is managed both to the population objective and to the harvest and recommended an increase there as well. After bison, there's bighorn sheep. There's a small increase. Our Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep--the increase there is primarily if you want a new hunt, which we're super excited about. When we went out and ____?__ found them out in the mountains this last fall, we realized a couple of things. One, we have a lot of rams and we're also seeing some density and then we pulled up quite a few ewes in our capture which will bolster that population and also to add to that population. So this ____ (inaudible). It will help us with the lamb/ewe ratio and that's very good.

Mountain Goats: We've also had a new hunt going in the La Sals and we've recommended an increase for those permits as well.

So, I sensed a little bit of tension about the Henry Mountain (inaudible)_fire_?? _____. I think you may have a few questions about this and I'll try to answer some of those and what the division's plan is and

help the RAC understand. Currently, we managed 325 does? post season. This year, the recommendation is to take that down a little. Under the current recommendations, more of this information will come in under that, and the issue we're concerned about there, obviously, is drought, but did perceive a lot of moths and the moisture. They haven't received a lot of moisture and we're always concerned about rain conditions. That's important. Um, if the drought continues, we put this in place a few years back. Uh, we'll continue to monitor what's going on with the drought and if we continue to have problems with not just bison, but other species, then we'll bring back the recommendations to the RAC and ___???__how to reduce some of those populations??? _____ (inaudible)??? And, obviously, this is what we're looking at, we're excited about the quality and we've followed it closely. And I'll take any questions.

Oh, just as a quick reminder. Uh, regional questions, I'll ask the regional staff to field that because of their familiarity with the units, but anything that has a statewide perspective, I'd be happy to answer those the best that I can.

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: K. Thank you Covy. Before I open up questions to the RAC, I'm just gonna go through the process again. We only have just have a few comment parts, so if you're here to make a comment, please fill those out and get those up here to the front, so we can make sure everybody gets a chance to comment. So, as we go through this process tonight, after each presentation, we'll answer any questions from the RAC and then we'll turn it over to the public for any questions, and that's specifically for quick questions. Save your comments for the comment section, we have a comment part for that. Then we'll have comments from the public and comments for the RAC. Then we'll proceed. Also, I want to recognize another wildlife board member that came, Kevin Albrecht, please remain standing. We appreciate you coming.

Kevin Albrecht: You're welcome.

Dave Black: With that, I'll turn it over to the RAC for any questions.

Gene Boardman: Yeah, what happened to your age management objectives on Panguitch Lake is my question?

Covy Jones: Do you want to respond, Josh? (inaudible)

Josh Pollock: Why?... What do you mean what happened to it?

Gene Boardman: Well, you kept permits considerably to raise the age and this year it's fell quite a bit and so (inaudible)____?

Josh Pollock: Uh-uh. Yeah. I don't know why that happened this year at Panguitch Lake, but it decreased by ? (inaudible) and some of it could have been due to the fire _____? It's kind of hard to harvest those deer. So I don't know if that had something to do with it or not. Why, I don't exactly know. That's a good question.

Gene Boardman: Okay, I have another question on that. Uh. Did you uh, look for the hunter

satisfaction on the returns of the hunters and see how satisfied they were with that hunt?

Josh Pollock: Yeah, I don't have it off the top of my head. What percent of it was ?? (inaudible) And overall negatively, the other percent?? (inaudible) I'd have to go and check _____?? (inaudible) so I could answer that question.

Gene Boardman: Was it considered in the recommendations for this year?

Josh Pollock: Yeah.

Gene Boardman: Thank you.

Dave Black: K. Any more questions? Braydon?

Braydon Richmond: Covy help me, you need to help all of us with respect to ____? on the ____ inaudible?? to my question particularly ____ (inaudible) how many deer do we have with regard to the buck/doe ratio?

Covy Jones: Yes. There's a few areas, and not a whole lot in our region, (other than Zion will definitely be there), There are a few areas, but there are other trapped ?? states where there's these large percentages of deer ____? Along the ?? (inaudible) buck/doe ratio including ____ (inaudible).

Braydon Richmond: Braydon Richmond- Um, in the plan do we have any way to deal with that issue? How do you look at that? I get a lot of questions on this.

Covy Jones: No, that's perfect. When we look at buck/doe ratios, really what we're looking at is one, are they available to hunt? Do we have enough to _____ everyday? And we're definitely running at five to seven bucks per hundred there. _____ (inaudible) This is a tough issue. I mean southern Utah's one thing and it's ____ (inaudible) but, you get up into northern Utah, some of these big units where there's 98 percent private property. Yeah, it's a toughy. We've got a few strategies to direct this and really, I think it's just finding a way to get access to more ____? It's a tough issue and Braydon, I assume what you're saying is that the public land is hammered, but it is private land; we don't have a lot of say. It is a real issue. One of the things we hope to do with the early season rifle, is take different animals in different areas, so we hope that would be a pool if these animals move and they're in different areas, by early October. I hear a lot of guys saying...I'm not talking specifically about this unit, but the _____ (inaudible) ____? ____ on our property in late October. Early October they're still somewhere in the mix, and so we're hoping that even though they're still hunting that same public land, it may (inaudible) ____?

Braydon Richmond: Thank you.

Wade Heaton: Covy, just explain a little bit about Thousand Lakes. Our investigators say we've got some issues there.

Covy Jones: I'd rather not, Wade. You know, I'll turn that one over publicly. It's a small unit, but I think that the _____ (inaudible) _____ should do that.

Jim Lamb: What in specific _____?

Wade Heaton: That's fine. I'm just curious if you could give us some of those particulars about why we're all over the place between 30, and then no recommendation of the change even though our three year average is 30.

Jim Lamb: The Thousand Lake unit looks fantastic on paper, but it's pretty tough unit in reality. Um, there's a fair amount of private land there. We have a very small unit if you cut the park out of it. It's limited on the winter range and it's limited on the summer range. So in the fall, when I classify those deer, if they've for some reason, moved across Hwy 70 and over into the _____ slope and down near the ___? reservoir, then the Fishlake deer, even though the deer _____ (inaudible) If the Fishlake deer cross the road, to ___? on the Bayou, (inaudible) then ___? There are some great deer on Thousand Lake Mountain. There's some really cool places, but it's not as good as it looks on paper and when we talked about it on the phone about that part _____ (inaudible) If you look at statistics, if you look at _____ (inaudible mumbling and garbled voices).

Covy Jones: That's funny. Let's take about five minutes.

Dave Black: Brian, do you have a question?

Brian Johnson: I do, it's about the Paunsaugunt cactus hunt. They only put 14 tags on. Is that enough? I mean there's a lot---I don't know? How do you feel about numbers? Is that enough? Is it?

Rusty Aiken: They are trophy

Brian Johnson: I am not talking about trophies, we're talking about cactus hunts.

Covy Jones: Brian, I think you're using your points ...

Brian Johnson: I don't care about points. I thought we were getting rid of them because they're a mouth on the unit; that don't reproduce ... is the point!

Covy Jones: That's why I think it's actually a good place to start. I think we can start there and see how it goes from there.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Dave Black: K. Are there any other questions? Verland?

Verland King: On these pronghorn....(inaudible)

Covy Jones: We'll get that to you, Verland.

Verland King: You don't have that on hand?

Covy Jones: I don't have a deadline. We have it right here though.

Verland King: You mentioned gun hunters population when you were talking about pronghorn bucks?

Covy Jones: So, the pronghorn bucks---this is outside the state of Utah in the research that's been done. Pronghorn bucks have a relatively high mortality. And so, if you wait until that buck is three, four, five years old, we have a lot worse buck hunt. The new plan says that we'll manage the two to three year old bucks, and so we have more opportunity to harvest them because they don't die from natural mortality.

Verland King: K. So you are talking population and size and?

Covy Jones: We are talking about the current trail populations we have. What we realized as we did the research on the pronghorn, is that we were leaving quite an opportunity on the table and uh, with a lost species of maximized opportunity and quality. So 4.3 for archery and 4.? for rifle.

Dave Black: K. We'll come back to you in a minute, Verland. Okay is that it? Riley?

Riley Roberts: This is just kind of a side question. We're talking about the age objective and the pronghorn population and you've mentioned Colorado statistic. Is there a point of diminishing return? and so are you seeing that on premium number of entry units? So do you bring data back to that or what? So it's more of a social issue you're looking at? _____? (inaudible)

Covy Jones: And I think the answer is on our premium of entry units. So this data is when they're density dependent. So you have a population of freaking density dependents. And then Colorado showed it at 25 bucks per hundred does. When they hit 25 bucks per 100 does, they lost almost 8 fawns per hundred does and then they went back up in classified. What I'm saying there, and on our premium limited entry units and our limited entry units, we manage differently. We don't manage those units to maximize population and production. We set those units aside and manage for more quality. And so, we understand that. We understand that we're not maximizing the output for that population, right? Because at that time, the public has said, "We want some units set aside...the Paunsaugunt, the Henry Mountains. We want some units set aside for extreme quality." And that's okay, if they're not trying to maximize opportunity, that's okay. But on general season limits, we're trying to say, "Hey look. 18-20, we're probably still okay, but we also want to manage, you know, within that ratio, because that will allow us to have a lot of bucks on the landscape, and in addition to that, a lot of opportunity.: And we start picking up above that, you do reach a point of, as we said, diminishing returns. You could start to possibly lose fawns, especially if you have some bucks who are dependents, especially if__? Does that answer your question?

Riley Roberts: Thank you.

Dave Black: Brian

Brian Johnson: So just help me cause I'm not a biologist. I'm hearing if we're in growth mode on a population, it's a tendency to be a healthier population? So, say for example, we're killing does, which we're not proposing, but we're killing does, we're killing bucks, and we're below capacity and we're growing to capacity, is that generally a healthier deer herd, per say?

Covy Jones: Yes. I mean yeah, absolutely. And we pick it up every fall when we go out and catch on our units, we do body condition scores. And so, we can see, (and not to get into a big tangent capacity

discussion, cause I think we could take all night on that. But, we can see in the fall which units are starting to approach a density ____ capacity. But yeah, in their body condition, I think it's important also to note that we think about that as a static state or a solid number and it changes, it varies based on precipitation,____, but over time, you can see this unit will probably run about (inaudible).

Dave Black: Braydon.

Braydon Richmond: Question on the bison permits. That increase of 4 permits. The permits up on the Book Cliffs that are allowing people to hunt again, is that included in that number? Help me to understand this number. Does it include those? Does it not include those?

Covy Jones: It does not include those. We've recommended very few permits for that unit for this year because of that, because the unit was cut in half and then the Wildlife Board allowed it.

Braydon Richmond: So if I'm understanding this correctly, then you aren't increasing by 9 permits, you're increasing by 40 permits? 45 permits?

Covy Jones: I guess if you look at it that way, Brayden, yeah. A lot of those bison that they'll be hunting in that unit set up, spend the majority of their time on private land.

Braydon Richmond: So do you have the bison permits by unit, the increases and decreases?

Covy Jones: Absolutely, there in the laptop, but I can find them.

Braydon Richmond: And I would like to see that, now that I'm here.

Covy Jones: Okay. if we take that other unit out of it, both the Book Cliffs and the Henry Mountains have increases.

Braydon Richmond: Okay, so I guess I would like... I would be specifically interested in the increase on the Henry Mountains.

Covy Jones: Okay. Wade is here and he's excited to be here.

Wade Paskett: Okay, so I'm Wade Paskett from the Division of Wildlife. On the Henry, the recommended increase of 19 hunter's choice and 5 archery.

Braydon Richmond: And what about cow?

Wade Paskett: I have an increase of 6.

Braydon Richmond: So a total of 30, no 40 tags? No, an additional 30 tags.

Wade Paskett: Is that right?

Braydon Richmond: 5 plus 6 is 11 plus 19 for 30.

Wade Paskett: 19 on (Panguitch Lake?), 15 on (inaudible) and 5 on_____?

Braydon Richmond: Thank you.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me mention that we do have some of our representatives from the southeastern region here specifically to help us address questions for ____out bison. It has always been a little bit of an odd thing. I think a lot of the people that are concerned about it and are closer to come to our RAC, but it's managed by the southeastern region, so that's why we get some faces here tonight to address us.

Dave Black: Sure.

Braydon Richmond: Alright. Another follow up question to ask. In your presentation, you said that at current levels we are going to be below the objective. But we are not seeing current levels. We are increasing by 30 animals and so that's a decrease, well below objective for us.

Covy Jones: So I'm...(inaudible) out specifically under this second motion, we would come in at 350, which is below the objective.

Braydon Richmond: That's under this recommendation?

Covy Jones: That's under this current recommendation, we're coming in below the objective.

Braydon Richmond: So you've _____(inaudible) mumbling

Covy Jones: Braydon, let me say one more thing, if that's okay. When we set these objectives, we don't set them for the best of times, we set them for the worst of times, but_____ (inaudible)

Dave Black: Tammy.

Tammy Pearson: Okay, so I have a question on the bison that are there in the Book Cliffs. Um, so the issue with the area being changed and all of that. Is there a lot of private property right there? Is that something that we can hunt on or is itbesides the ___(inaudible)?

Covy Jones: No Tammy. That's all public ground out there.

Tammy Pearson: Just curious.

Covy Jones: No, that's a great question. At least part of it.

Dave Black: Gene

Gene Boardman: I've got a question on the number of permits. What's the state's plan to _____(inaudible) 43 permits? Is there 43 permits really in the draw? Or has the conservation permits been taken out of that?

Covy Jones: Uh. Okay. This is the number of permits for the other unit and that's not always the exact

representation that the public saw.

Gene Boardman: Right. So we're down to like 39 permits there... that are eligible for the draw?

Covy Jones: I'm sorry, I missed that.... the public recommended??? they be in the public draw??? (inaudible)

Gene Boardman: Okay, well that isn't the way it should be...those conservation permits should be part of the DWR website, but the conservation permits come out of the draw.

Covy Jones: So yeah. When we talk conservation permits, and the dimensions in it, they'll always just use them, but the convention permits do come out of the draw the conservation permits do.

Kevin Bunnell: So Gene, just to ____, what you're seeing on the website is the biologists will recommend a certain number, right? And the number of conservation permits comes out of that number, but what's being presented here already has those numbers subtracted off from what the biologists have recommended.

Covy Jones: For the conservation permits.

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, for the conservation permits.

Covy Jones: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Well okay. That's not the way I understand it from the website, but uh, let's not argue about that. Thanks.

Dave Black: Okay Brian.

Brian Johnson: The Morgan South and, the Chalk Creek East Canyon, the late muzzleloader that was the new one? Is that just primarily private property so you just found an opportunity to hunt them when they aren't on private property? Is that right? Cause 20 is a lot! Which I'm good with. I was just wondering why it's so many for the first time.

Covy Jones: So that one's not 15, the Chalk Creek, Morgan South Creek. That number didn't work out, on that one.

Brian Johnson: Oh okay. So I just misheard on that one. Sorry.

Covy Jones: It must've been a different one. Sorry.

Brian Johnson: So the Beaver--is this the first time we've done the Beaver?

Covy Jones: Yes and also the north slope to Oquirrh.

Dave Black: Alright anybody else? If you have a question, please come up to the mic and state your name and ask your question and we'll move onto the comments in just a minute. As you're filling out

your comment cards, we'll allow five minutes for each organized group and a three minutes for individuals. If you filled out more than one comment card for action items, then you'd be allowed to comment. Are there any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, there is one here that's a question for the biologists.

Todd Abelhouzen: I was going to use this for part of my comment concerning the elk management plan for the southern region units for limited entries, the elk units. In discussing with the Division and discussing with some of the sportsman's groups, (which I don't currently remember any amount or number of sportsman's groups.) I am taking applications if you guys want ____ (inaudible). It appears that there's been a significant amount of habitat within the southern region; specifically, in some of the units that I've been spending a lot of time in southwest desert, Panguitch, Beaver. Obviously, Panguitch with the fire, there's going to be some issues on that unit. But it appears that those units have had a lot of money, sportsmans money, including the **SFW**? Conservation permit monies. Are we going back to the elk management groups or the elk management plan and recognizing the efficiency and how fast those habitat rehabilitation programs have gone? There's nearly 100,000 acres...that's on the southwest desert, um, yet we're still just wham-basting those elk. So my question, and Jason and I had a brief discussion about it, but "What do we do and how do we get the elk management plans revisited?" And then I'm gonna comment to why I should _____ (inaudible).

Dave Black: Thank you.

Covy Jones: I think this is more specific to the southwest desert and I know (inaudible).

Jason Nicholes: So we typically visit our elk management unit plans on about a 5 year basis, about 7 years. It's been like...2016 was the last time we had an elk assessment?? in the southwest desert. At that time, we did set some goals in that plan, that if we met those goals, we would consider raising the elk objective and that like, for example, some of those were so many acres of habitat, increase so many of our water sources or less of these habitats it might expand the population and irrigates and (inaudible) Also, a certain number or a significant reduction of horses on the unit. We also looked at the population objectives and he said that if we meet population objective, _____? We haven't had a chance to survey the unit in 2016 and it will probably be a few years before we have time..

Kevin Bunnell: So Jason, just to clarify...those would allow a revisit for that prior to the 7 years, you know, sometime this spring, if we filled those?

Jason Nicholes: Right. We didn't say that it's a done deal, that we'd just increase, just that we would continue with the committee and discuss it and see what we're gonna do. haha. Well, we'll be on the regular rotation, um...all the units in southern region will ____ (inaudible), then we'll have a committee meeting.

Kevin Bunnell: We're the stewards. We're hemming that population; we're working on it. One of the ____ is, is that we would manage to the population. What we're trying to do is what we're committed to do in the first place and manage to the population to the population objectives that we've agreed to manage. You, know, and the sentiment is, is that if you can't manage to this number, how could you

manage to a higher number?

Dave Black: K. Thank you. Questions followed by comments. Todd, do you want to follow up with a comment?

Comments from the Public:

Todd Abelhouzen: So again, why kill the animals down to a number so that you can build them back up to a number when we've already invested millions of dollars---one half million dollars alone, just on that one unit have been invested to increase habitat; to increase habitat for ranchers, to increase habitat for sage grouse, for mule deer, for recreational use, but also for elk. And, when we did the fly in 2016, (see you can check the numbers and math right here) I would say at least 50 percent, if not 50 percent of your elk will have been at least 5 miles of the Nevada border and it just so happens that this fly was done within about a week and a half to two weeks of Nevada's late season cow hunt or antlerless hunt, so you're killing the elk, to bring them down to objective, so you can go back to objective. I've got another comment about the spike units and about the antlerless tag, I'm going to mention that just right now, but you're going to so much energy to bring the unit down to objective, that you're destroying, not only opportunity, but you're devastating your quality. We've done so well as a state to increase our quality. You guys are doing a fabulous job with further management with mule deer, with increasing habitat opportunities. I know we can't manage the federal government, because they manage us, even though it's our land, based on the constitution. However, if we're going to kill the elk down, just so that we can grow them back, when we've met all of the other criteria, I think it's insanity.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, Todd, I think you're followed by Jesse Hatch, who will be followed by Nolan Gardner.

Jesse Hatch: My name is Jesse Hatch. I've been fortunate enough in my life that I've been able to spend most of it in the mountains. I've always been passionate about elk and uh, I'm an outfitter guide and you know, I think our elk are looking bad ____ (inaudible). Uh, I think it's time to change that. Uh, it's like he was saying, there's a lot of habitats, sportsmen and women, there's a lot of money, there's a lot of habitat. And yet, we've never upped our elk objective, never. And, I think it's time we do this. It kinds of concerns me to have all these conservation tags, we raise all the money, but yet we don't raise objectives. We put all the habitat on the ground, we can't increase the numbers. To me, it doesn't make any sense. Sportsmen willing to put a lot of habitat on the ground and not wanting any credit for it. Um...and also if I can give you guys some numbers, on the four wheeler alone, (I'm not so sure it's just the four wheeler), I counted 10,959 head of cattle, (garbled), 3,192 head of sheep. We're allotted 1,500 elk, at the very best. And to me, that doesn't seem quite fair. Uh, especially with all the dalls?, all the habitat, we're only allotted 1,500 head of elk. And also with the 80 ??, let's say ____ (inaudible), that's counting cows, it's not counting the calf, so why do we have to count our cows with that? Um, I'd also like to suggest that there's an outpour on the cow herd. We spend our lives watching the downlow, we spend our lives in the mountains, ____ (inaudible), and it's our livelihood. ____ (inaudible).

Dave Black: Thank you. Nolan Gardner. Nolan, come on up. They need you. You backed out last time and you need to talk. I remember.

Nolan Gardner: You don't know how hard I talked to get out of that. haha. Pine Valley deer herd. The point I want to make on that is (that's next year's deer hunt on there) but on the Pine Valley, those deer

move because of pressure. We start hunting with the archery, and then the muzzle, and now we've put two rifle hunts in there. Those deer are gonna be down in that ?? Beaver Dam Lot ?? (inaudible) for that last hunt and it's going to be a slaughter. It just seems crazy to me that in a year when we don't know what's going to happen, now we're going to up the tags 200 and if we push them all down in there, it's like keeping fish in a barrel. I'd just ask that you wait a year before you make that move. If you push them all down there, it's could really be a mess, by doing what you're planning on doing. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. The next one is Troy Justensen with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. While he's coming up, I also wanted to mention that there be no comment as far as that support for Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife's comments, but ___(inaudible____) here. He's representing (inaudible)

Troy Justensen: Good evening. Troy Justensen, Sportsmen Fish and Wildlife. Just left a meeting where sportsmen funded nearly three million dollars across the state of Utah and that's before the federal matched it. Expect it to turn into six million dollars. Hats off to the sportsmen. They've got a lot of money invested into wildlife which has already been stated. As far as the SFW goes, we agree with the Division's recommendations, except for the following: We do have some concern with the sheep hunt that involves Leanthro? _____, the Wasatch, the Eagle, the ___? Creek. Anyway, what it is, is a combination to put these units together. They've issued three permits. Our concern is with those three permits, there's also a tribal permit, and the sportsman's tag, and the governor's tag has the ability to hunt that. Our concern is that all of those are gonna end up on the Wasatch. Now they all won't, but there's a substantial number that could end up on the Wasatch, maybe we'll recommend that for that herd. So, I'm gonna ask the Division to modify the recommendations to only two permits, instead of the three. Then, as stated earlier by Nolan Gardner, our Dixie Chapter, we ask that we keep the permits on the Pine Valley the same as last year. The reason being, we understand that we fall in that upper age class, buck to doe ratio, but because we are instituting that early rifle hunt, we'd like to give it a year to see what effect it has on those deer migrating before we issue those additional tags. Pertaining to the Manti, we also ask that we have a reduction there, a reduction of 250 permits. We understand that the north Manti is doing well, but uh the south Manti is the low objective, with the low buck/doe ratio at least and it's got a severe ___(inaudible), so we ask that we cut permits on that Manti by 250 permits that were recommended. As far as elk goes, we would ask that the Manti, the Monroe and the Fishlake stay with last years numbers, and that we don't increase it. There's been some questions on the southwest desert. There was an elk committee formed a couple of years ago. SFW was representing that elk committee. At that time, we agreed to the perimeters set and that's one of the reasons why we support the Division's recommendations, because we made that agreement and we'll stick to it. But we do ask the Division to do this...one of which is we want to prove that we can bring that elk herd down to objective levels, which I believe is now at 950. We just ask the Division that we don't prolong that. That we issue enough permits to get that down so we can start to rebuild that. A lot of money was spent today on the southwest desert from that meeting we had today and our hopes are to re-establish that elk herd.

Uh, we've mentioned the bison in the Henry Mountains. We are permit holders on there. We believe we have a good work relationship with the grazers there. We understand there's some issues and some hardships put on livestock operations. That herd is a national treasure. We flew out to Washington D.C. two years ago to be recognized. Utah has been recognized as one that has figured out the bison and we've received recognition for having one of the top bison programs. It would be a travesty to lose that. We can work out the issues. We can take care of the ___(inaudible). Between _____ and _____, there's no_____. And then we have also addressed before that we understand we're in

drought conditions, but we have a mechanism in place, if we don't get the rains we hope to, we can go back to the Wildlife Board in August, and issue some new permits to bring that down until the rains can improve and we can bring those numbers back up again to an operating ____? We appreciate you being here. We appreciate the Division of Wildlife Resources. You have a great partnership with the Utah sportsmen. Thank you.

Dave Black: Troy, before you sit down, one question for you. We're just trying capture some comments on the elk permits. We want to know where the elk permits are sitting now

Troy Justensen: The Manti, the Fishlake, and Monroe. So we have the two deer, the three elk_____(inaudible mumbling) Division recommendations.

Dave Black: K. Thank you. Troy will be followed by Greg Bird, followed by Paul Niemeyer.

Greg Bird: Greg Bird with the ____Foundation. We're in agreement for the Division's recommendations on all of these units which we set in the Wasatch ____ (inaudible). It just feels really sensitive._____(inaudible). It's an area where there's possibility. Six ____is really low....(inaudible). We would recommend no increase in the tags this year. We understand there is great _____(inaudible) if it's struggling in those bigger areas, they're going to gravitate to where you're going to build them_____mumbling_____ (inaudible) That would be a travesty._____mumbling_____ (inaudible) We feel that the recommendations be _?_____ (inaudible)____?_____mumbling_____.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul?

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Niemeyer, Chairman of the Sevier _____(inaudible) mumbling_____
_____(Inaudible)_____

Dave Black: Thank you. Russell Todd, if you want to come up.

Russell Todd: I'm Russell Todd. I represent the public and myself today. One thing I'd like to do is just kind of paint a picture for you. Not long ago, did we institute the early muzzleloader hunt for the mule deer on Pine Valley and many other units. A lot of people that have hunted Pine Valley, know that Pine Valley is a migratory hunt. The deer move early and when they instituted that early muzzleloader hunt, they just progressed it and made it earlier, and we're seeing on a regular basis that those mule deer are starting to moving midway through the muzzleloader hunt. So they start moving middle part of that month, so that would put you right towards the first part of October, and now something I have a concern with-- instituting a new early rifle hunt-- I'm not against the rifle hunt, but I am against, you know, bringing those tag numbers up and not giving it a year to find out if that's going to affect it even more. I'd like to see the tag numbers stay the same until we have the initial numbers put out there before we-- I just have a real concern that we just keep increasing numbers. I know we're above the objective, but it just, I mean in 2016, you saw the numbers. That was the greatest number of mule deer that was taken off that unit in 2016. There are several things that factor into that; one, that I'm talking about that they migrate early, but the other was, is that hunt in 2016 was a week later than the one this year. So, not only did a portion of those deer migrate, but a greater portion in 2016 migrated because it was a

week later. My concern is if we increase the tag numbers 200 permits, what are we going to do with a third one? I'd like to see it stay the same, until we can see some results. And that's my recommendation.

Dave Black: Thank you. K, that's it for this item. Number 6 will you please come get your card? Please state your name.

Will Talbot: Will Talbot, (inaudible) We support the increase of the bulls killed on Monroe mountain. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you, k. We'll move over to the comment section for the RAC now. We have two items that are not on the agenda, that we can't address-- increasing the elk objective and also _____(inaudible), _____we'd like to see the increase in southwest desert and also on Mt. Dutton. We heard another comment not to increase tags; we heard several...three comments regarding the Pine Valley Mountain and not to increase the number of deer tags this year until they can see how it affects the migration of the herd within the hunt. We had a comment from SFW. They support the Division recommendations _____(inaudible) _____common welfare of the _____. That's the combined feeling. They would like to keep permits on Pine Valley for the deer the same this year. They would like to reduce the number of deer permits on the Manti by 250. They would like to keep the elk permits the same on the Manti, Fishlake and Monroe. We had another comment from the _____?___ Foundation. They would like to address the combined units to make them smaller; They'd like to keep the tag numbers the same this year. Possibly considering dividing the _____uh, a comment to keep the Monroe and the Fishlake tags the same as last year. And the last comment was to support the increase in tags on the Monroe for the bull elk. So that's a summary of the comments and now we'll take comments from the RAC.

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson: Mr Hatch, what was your first name?

Jesse Hatch: Jesse.

Brian Johnson: Jesse, I just want to say that I agree that there should be some outfitters on this council, and the simple solution to that is to apply for the council. If you've got an interest in it, I think there's definitely a place for it up here. Just keep an eye on it and apply. I think that you have a lot of insight and a lot of good ideas. I'd love to see an application put in here. I just wanted to get that out before we started talking about the nuts and bolts of this. Um, if any of you guys from the public are sitting there thinking you could do this, then there's a process to get on and to apply. So on that, I'd jump right onto the Pine Valley deer tag. This is probably the thing that I get the most questions on. How do we not raise tag numbers when we've hit the objectives, but we expect everybody else to. Personally, I'd just as soon see it not go up. I've got a lifetime license. I'm going to get my tag and I'd just as soon not see another tag on there because that's just human nature. I didn't ever hunt this year until Nolan bragged about how good it was at at these meetings, and I said, "Well maybe I'll think of that." So it was, I was here, and you were here and you told me it was great in the south, so now I hunt that unit. Thanks Nolan, I love it! That being said, I also understand that there's some serious hesitation because when those deer get out on that flat guys, if you guys are hunting, those deer get out there, if they migrate

early, it can be dangerous for them. It's quite a concern. I really don't know what to do. I really don't. I'm hoping you guys have some better ideas than me, so I'll stop there.

Dave Black: Gene. You have a comment.

Gene Boardman: Um, I want to talk about the Panguitch Lake unit, but my comments apply pretty much for the Mt. Dutton unit at the same time. On my account, there's been six tags go to auction on Panguitch Lake unit and there was three tags in the convention. That's nine tags. There's a bunch of people that think there's big elk out there that bid on those tags and yet they've been cut. The Panguitch Lake unit, with the recommendation has been cut in half the last three years. Now the "pay to play" hasn't been cut that much and the "pay to play" still thinks there's big elk out there, and I don't think we need to cut 'em that bad. Now, you know I hate age objective management. Here's another problem with the Panguitch Lake. The average age of elk, since last year, went down to 5.1, so our cutting tags hasn't helped that at all. If that 5.1 is gonna sit there for three years on the three year average, then we'll keep cutting, and keep cutting, and keep cutting and we've already lost about 100 opportunities for regular hunters on those two units. The "pay to play" people still think there's big elk there. They hire guides. Their entries submit on the tags that are available for 'em. The elk are there. The elk were there when we had a lower age objective and they're still there and I think as we mentioned, the hunter satisfaction isn't negative. So, I'm really objecting to cutting tags on those two units. Another thing that I want to say really quickly. The recommendation is 29 tags on the Beaver. The recommendation for cow tags is 850. Now a "joe hunter" in Manderfield, Utah looks at that and says, "You want to kill 30 cows to every bull?" Ain't that a little over done? Can't we just kill a few more bulls? 30 cows to every bull tag....I think we better...I know that the antlerless hunts are managed for something different than the bull hunts, but doggone, that's pretty radical---30 to 1!! Thank you.

Dave Black: Comments this way.

Wade Heaton: Sorry, this comment is going to turn into a question. Just on this Pine Valley unit. Do you know where the permit allocations are for the different rifle hunts? That might give us a little insight. Sorry, just from the concern.

Covy Jones: I can. We made the mistake, we never get a lot of complaints about archery and muzzleloader status, but 20 percent of this seems to be about right, so we decided to divide it up 20-20-20, and that'll reduce the general rifle to 30.

Sean Kelly: Hey Covy, before you get too far away... Sometimes we can't see the forest for the trees when we're talking about these issues. But I just wondered if you could go over what kind of pressure we're getting on these leads, ____ (inaudible) and how people are putting in and what kind of point they put in.

Covy Jones: Yeah Sean. As I sit here and listen to the discussions. It's super interesting and important. Um. I guess what I'd like to say is that I'm a hunter too. I got into wildlife as soon as I could hunt. I think a lot of people in this room probably like to hunt. You can't hunt without a tag. I think I said that earlier. When we look at this, you know, we try to manage them both for quality and opportunity and when we have the ability to optimize it.... and to shorten my answer, I guess there's over 470,000 big game applications this year! 470,000 is a lot of hunt---deer, elk, moose. And the people sitting at home, (when we have the opportunity to sit home or not), are kids, dads. And what we're missing out on is

families and time. Again, age is a perspective and we have that opportunity to manage the plan and offer _____ (inaudible) that's totally our business. How do we address it? How do we address 476,000 applications?

Brian Johnson- I just want to make one little comment, Gene. Your cow to bull killing ratio---you've gotta figure in there killing a bunch of spikes too, and those are kind of closed, but I just wanted to mention that too.

Dave Black: K. Braydon?

Braydon Richmond: Mr. Chairman. So I want to talk for a second. I appreciated the comments from Jesse and Troy also. The sportsmen allocated another 3 million for habitat and conservation efforts and that's going to be (inaudible) _____ and that's going to be ??? Why? Why is it? It's troubling to me. How many millions of dollars in the last 10-15 years have we put into habitat and your not going to increase? I think that's a big problem. I even think that Gene's comment and your comment, Covy...wouldn't you like to hunt? There's one way to do that. Increase the numbers!! haha. You get to hunt more. We're spending the money to do it, but for some reason, we aren't doing it. It's corrupt. Um, I'll leave that there. Now, I actually have a question.(inaudible)

Covy Jones: Ugh sure I understand the concern on this--we combined the _____ one with the west of the Wasatch, we're working in the plan within guidelines to go with either 2 or 3 on this recommendation. The biologists just felt like we had the resources to go with it. You know, Troy and Greg both bring up great points in that if everybody harvested there, it could be up to 6 with the local sportsmen and conservation hunts and then there's a tribal hunt. The recommendation would be something I would almost say go back to last year's permit number of 3. I'm not concerned about that, 2 or 3 (mumbling inaudible)

Braydon Richmond: 2 or 3 based on the higher tag.

Covy Jones: Yeah.

Braydon Richmond: And then one more comment. I think I've never had that thought before, that you don't have outfitter's on that committee. In addition to that comment, I've set on several committees now for geese and elk and I don't recall having an outfitter invited. I've been to several of those meetings where the sportsmen are about 10 percent of the crowd and the cattlemen are about 80 percent. It seems like it would be right to have an outfitter on there. I like that idea.

Dave Black: Comments down this way.

Verland King: Okay, you can talk about all your peoples view. I've got the same thing on my side I've got ranchers. The SFW said, they put a million dollar number on what they put into the land. Well, the ranchers, the livestock men, they've put in as much or more than what you do. They can relate it to their income and what they have. When you talk about the numbers on the Boulder, when you talk about that 1500 head of elk, you've got to take into account how long did that take. The cows were there for four months. When you figure the elk, you've got 6000 head of elk, and maybe 10,000 head of cows for five months. ___?__ (cow/calf). They were talking about the bison and how the SFW holds permits on the Henry, and those permits are for seven months like mine is. The bison were there twelve months. You

have permission on one part of the range, the bison are on the other part of the range for seven months and then on your range for five months. The problem with the bison on the Henry- I haven't been invited there, I could call them and ask the treasurer if where they roam, from the mountains down to the (inaudible). There's twice as many buffalo there as the habitat will hold. And so, because of that, ranchers are bringing their cattle home because there's no habitat left for them. Right now, we're in a pretty severe drought. On my allotment, where I luckily don't have any spike, and I'm running, I'd fill my (inaudible). In other places where the bison roam, most committees are bringing their animals home and feeding them hay and have been for several months. The bison have ran out of feed where they normally roam, so now they've been in the park. So there's a problem. You can call and ask the treasurer about what it costs. We're phonetically still heard, but at what cost? It's them who refuse to change. I just wanted to make those comments. When you get counting your habitat improvements, that's fine, but every rancher has made habitat improvements on the range, more than what you have, whether it's settin' dikes, cleaning the ponds or water improvements, or drinking improvements, we've been there every day too. You guys can count the big dollars you put in there, and a lot of times those improvements don't work. A lot of times, they take several years to work and depending on where they're done, they don't work at all. So, you know, this whole discussion's been kind of one-sided and so I kind of want to check the truth because the ranchers have a lot more at stake here than you guys do and we're in the same boat and we're gonna have to work together eventually. That's pretty much what I wanted to comment. Thank you.

Dave Black: K. Thank you, Verland. Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: Okay. I'm going to follow up with Verland. Um, when we start talking history, my family has been ranching for over 100 years and the last 50 years, we've probably lost at least 50 percent of what we're allowed to take. So we've lost our hunts, we've lost our mms?. And during its course of time, it's very much contributed to the increase of the wildlife. The comments that I'm getting is the county commissioner and most of the nobles. Thirty years ago, when DWR brought the elk in here to start with, their objective was to hunt it. That was the objective and now you're talking anywhere from what 14, 15, 16, whatever it is right now. So I've been a member of the SFW for a long time. We paid the money for that and we all hunt. My family has all hunted and we've all put a lot of money and 365 days a year money cattle on different houses and whatever and that's the thing that ___? (inaudible) calls welfare ranchers and whatever. For those of you that don't understand, our cows are not in any particular pasture more than 3 months. (inaudible) that come off the range for the BLM. Like right now, they compensate the person it cuts, just because of the drought. And that's what I'm talking about, just throwing out and yet, when you talk about the drought this year and what effect it's going to bring the wildland, then we'll talk about it in August. If the number's 15, the hunts are in fall, uh, then we can take the cow tracks. We put out 900 cows tags and yet how many are there still? Maybe, I'm not sure what you think your objective probably is, but there's a lot damage. A lot of the _____ wildlife that's been on the backs of those livestock people. So, I can understand and I understand both sides of the story. My comment, the tail end of my comment, I should say is we have to figure out a way that all this fits in together and quit pulling each other apart. The SFW and all these guys, they do good work, and I appreciate the work that they do, the advantage that they have, I think that they have over the rancher _____? and I think this is an extreme advantage because you guys have an ? _____ that DWR contributes these option tags for them. So you can raise the money, you can make your money and your donations and get the credit for that, because livestock people can't do that. Livestock people are out. I kind of laughed all winter, I wanted to send a bunch of pictures, to a few people that send you your nasty emails and different things like that and say, "Where the hell were

you at when I was out here cutting ice at eight inches, because of the water for antelope, elk, and wild horses and whatever?" So those are daily things, but uh the infrastructure on the water, the Bowen water hauls three or four semi loads a day all winter and it's not seeped. We're talking about mud_____? And my county is hugely based on agriculture and that's the infrastructure that keeps our county running, our families and our communities. So, I think that's something that needs to be talked about. I think everybody needs to understand both sides of the fence and quit pounding for their part, because when it comes down to it, we could all be preaching the same story, and trying to work together and make things work, and when it comes right down to it all, it has to have a balance. Just like the horses. The horses come in as our enemies (haha) for all of you guys. And I like horses, they're just fun, but they need to have a balance and just remember, the wildlife is just like the livestock.

Dave Black: We would like to move this along. Is there a motion for all the different comments? Do you have a comment that will help us keep the motion, Brian?

Brian Johnson: Hahaha. I just have a hard time. I have never once, never once, and I've been coming to these meetings for 15, 20 years, I have never once heard a hunter get up and say you gotta cut A.N. animal unit much. I've never once heard it. It baffles me that ranchers...The Forest Service and the BLM have been cutting those permits since the beginning of the permits. That's what they do. That's what the BLM and the Forest Service do. They've cut it since they started and so I get that they cut it and it's livelihood, and I understand that, and I get that we need to work together. I just don't understand the mentality where when they cut the permits, that it's a hunter's fault. I've just never understood that, and I'm empathetic to the fact that they get cut. I get it. It sucks! But, I've never heard a hunter say, "Let's cut 'em?" I've never heard it. And so, I make a motion that we make a motion.

Dave Black: Okay, we want to get to the motion so do we want to summarize Gene, or is somebody ready to make a motion? Okay, Wade.

Wade Heaton: So, Mr. Chairman, I really want to _____. I want to start here.

Dave Black: Yeah, we can break it up.

Braydon Richmond: I'll do deer. That's right. We don't care about elk--haha. I would make a motion to accept the Division's proposals as they've recommended, with the exception of Pine Valley and we will hold out one hunt on Pine Valley and monitor the success of this early hunt and if the success increases, then we might change our minds.

Dave Black: Do we have a motion?

Braydon Richmond: Yeah, the only change I would make is the Pine Valley.

Dave Black: K. Do we have a second? Well, let's take a second. Wade, do you have a second?

Wade Heaton: I'm just coming back. Yeah.

Dave Black: K. Let's second the motion, then we can entertain an amendment on the motion.

Rusty Aiken: I'd like the amendment on the motion to include a cut on the Manti of 250 permits.

Dave Black: So on the Manti, you'd like to reduce it by how many?

Rusty Aiken: By 250 permits. That's the recommendation.

Dave Black: 250 permits. That's a big reduction. Okay. We need a second on that amendment. Do we have a second on that amendment?

Wade Heaton: Yeah, I second it.

Dave Black: K. We have a second on the amendment. K. Anybody have a comment? K. Braydon.

Braydon Richmond: I do have one more. Yeah, I rejected where a lot of things are, but uh, that trend off of the _____ cycle is a little alarming. _____ the only reason why I think _____, maybe it's a fluke, but 13 bucks to 100 does--- it doesn't look great.

Dave Black: K. The amendment to the original motion is that we reduce these deer tags by 250 permits on the Manti. All those in favor. Keep your hands up so we can get a count. All those opposed. Okay, it's amended. Thank you. Now we'll start a discussion on the _____ ? and make a motion.

Dave Black: K. So the main motion now includes the 250 permits on the Manti reduction, and also to keep the number of deer tags the same on the Pine Valley unit. All those in favor? Thank you. Wade?

Wade Heaton: Just coming back there. I think Covy talked about it. You know we've got objectives for a reason and we're way out of those _____ boundaries? And we all know it. It was Brian that said that. Uh, how do we justify that? How do we justify voting to stay way outside of our objective? And I guess, here's my concern. There's a pretty good appetite to change the objectives, I think. We've talked about it off and on for the last three years. _____ (inaudible) _____? There's an appetite, and clearly, there's an appetite for this unit to fit into that category. That is my hope and dream, so that's why I'm going to vote for it, even though we're way outside of the objective. It may take us years.

Dave Black: Any further comment? K. Sean?

Sean Kelly: I appreciate Wade's comment. We have maps and a plan for a reason. If we violate it and its objective, then why can't we violate the members. These are agreements we made with a lot of our permit users. This is what we stand on and when we get on that shaky ground. We have this management file? and agreement with the Division who manages it with us. If we ignore it for this, what says we can't ignore it for that too? And then that management final just becomes a piece of paper. So, I understand what people are saying, ___ (inaudible) ___ but we're way above objective on this. If we don't weigh the risk, ___ (inaudible)

Dave Black: K. Rusty?

Rusty Aiken: Thanks. I like the idea of leaving Pine Valley the same. We've got the Zion unit right next to it. It an identical unit. We can leave the Zion as is and if we see an increase in it, _____ (inaudible) _____.

Dave Black: It looks like we're ready. Brayden?

Braydon Richmond: I do. I've got one more quick comment. I'm probably don't even need to say it, but I want to point out that my intent...I do really think that we need to follow up on the proposal ??? I appreciated Wade's point of view. The intent is that we don't know what to expect to have. I think there's a good possibility that our harvest _____(inaudible)_____.

Dave Black: K. With that being said, all those in favor? Show by the uplifted hand. Okay, that was close. The motion carries it. We're going to take a five minute break. After a few hours, it's potty break time.

Dave Black: K, we need to get started. Okay. It looks like we're ready to start. We're on Item #7. This is the antlerless. No wait, John...wait, we're still on Item #6. The only thing we've addressed are the deer. Okay, we've got to change #6. We can either do elk only or the OIAL.

Wade Heaton: Once in a lifetime, let's do the elk. Wait. Mr. chairman. I'd like to make a motion. Actually, I move that we approve the elk recommendation from the Division. There's one thing that on the old tag numbers; they get 37 instead of 40. They need to have the elk say so.

Dave Black: K, do we have a second? A second from Brian. We'll have a discussion on the motion, following any amendments to the motion.

Rusty Aiken: Yeah I would like to keep the elk tag recommendations from 2017 on the Manti and Fishlake units the same.

Dave Black: K. So that's an attempt at an amendment. Verland, do you have a second?

Verland King: I think we need to keep in mind the discussion we had back on the ____ (inaudible) and the objectives or what has been set when they make a plan and the recommendations because of the credibility of it, but on the other hand, you need to be able to make recommendations and changes _____(inaudible)

Dave Black: K. Thank you. Wade.

Wade Heaton: Just a thought regarding my motion. I just.. in 2017, they were coming back off the Monroe. Hopefully, that's _____, if not, it looks like the rug got slipped out from under that unit and _____(inaudible). Even we are outside the plan, that_____.

Dave Black: K. Anybody else?

Gene Boardman: Um I think that we need to increase tags on the Beaver. We need to not to decrease the tags on the Panguitch Lake unit and the Mt. Dutton unit. Just to use more hunting opportunity and utilize the resource. I think that's the way_____.

Dave Black: K. Verland, is that a comment or do you want to put that in as an amendment to the motion?

Verland King: Haha. It won't carry.

Dave Black: You can always touch the water. We don't want to discourage you from any participation in arriving at the vote.

Verland King: Well, on the last motion, I think we need more than one year on the Monroe to find out what the trend is, and if you're talking 3 permits well, I'd recommend we stay with what's recommended by the Division.

Dave Black: K. Thank you. I think we're ready to vote. All those in favor of the motion as presented, let me see it one more time. Those in motion needs to approve the elk recommendation, with the exception that the Monroe gold tag be __ (mumbling.. inaudible) renewed ? increased? Is that correct, _____? All those in favor? 7. All those opposed? 3. The vote is carried 7-3. Okay, we have the remainder for any questions.

Braydon Richmond: I want to make a motion. haha. I just wondered if, historically, do we have any idea how many times sportsmen and the governor have had to kill off that unit?

Covy Jones: Yeah, we do. We reopened that hunt in 2014. Since the sportsmen have had more permits on the unit than the governor's tag, it just happened to be _____? and that was without the _____? of that unit that time, the conservation permit harvested on the Nebo and it had harvested (inaudible mumbling)

Braydon Richmond: Alright, I'm going to make a motion. In a minute I'm going to make a motion. (Inaudible) _____ public office and there was a couple of people that came and spoke their mind and the Division said that they weren't opposed to it, so my motion is to accept the rest as intended with the exceptions that being that on the Wasatch _____?

Dave Black: Okay. Let's do a motion and a second. Are we having a discussion on that one? K. Let's vote. K. Any opposed? Now we're ready to move on to Item #7, which is the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2018. And now Covy if you'll proceed?

Braydon Richmond made the motion to accept the Buck Permit Recommendations for 2018 as presented with the exception of the Pine Valley Early Rifle, where he wants to monitor the new hunt for one year before increasing tags. Wade Heaton seconded. Rusty Aiken made the motion to amend the original motion to include the reduction of 250 permits on the Manti unit. Wade Heaton Seconded Amendment Motion carried 10-0. Amended Motion Carries 8-2.

Wade Heaton made the motion to accept the Bulls Permit Recommendations for 2018 as presented with the exception of keeping the Monroe bull tags at 37. Sean Kelly seconded Rusty Aiken's attempt to amend motion to also keep tags the same as last year on the Fishlake and Manti Units Fail for lack of Second. Original Motion carries 7-3.

Braydon Richmond made the motion to accept the OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2018 as presented with the exception of reducing the sheep tags on the Wasatch units from 3 to 2 Brian Johnson seconded. Motion Carries 9-1

Antlerless permit Recommendations for 2018

-Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Manager

Covy Jones: If you guys aren't sick of me yet, I guess I can do that. For the 2018 Antlerless Permit Recommendations.----- If you look at the statewide deer survival rates. Again, remember this reflects on the most severe winter that we had last winter. So this data, the way it comes in, in spite of that, it's from December to December---January 01 to January 01. But it comes in so it's last year's data, and that shows that we had high fawn mortality, and also adults were (inaudible)____, and that translates to the next _____ of statewide population. The take home from here is that still, since the early nineties we've bounced back a lot, we've grown a lot of deer, with the high of 384,000 two years ago, was a slight increase there. That's still a lot of deer in the state and definitely a lot of bucks. When you look at antlerless deer, when you mention public draws, and this trend, it ebbs and it flows, but we usually use it as a tool to provide opportunity to the public to harvest deer that need to be removed. There are three main reasons for antlerless deer hunts when we look at it. One, is to address population health. We talked about the deer survival at the beginning as well. We go out and we catch deer in the winter. We take a body condition score on all these animals. There's a study that the way we measure it, is to take fat from the actual fat, they calculate the actual fat that those animals have. So, as we take body condition scores, this population is a fifth percent body fat on there. We can see when there's just too much density in our herds or we can find out when there's just too many animals out there. That's one reason to have an antlerless hunt. The second reason, is to address range management concerns. When we have an area that the deer might be doing okay, but the winter range there won't sustain the current utilization. And, finally, to address depredation, which helps the private landowner. A lot of private landowners appreciate some help with these removals. Um, sometimes these hunts for the public draw makes it so the landowner has to do all the work himself, the Division doesn't have to go remove all these animals. So keep that in mind as we begin. (Yawn) Sorry. Starting in the northern region-no hunts on the _____and East Canyon. Both of these units are completely made up of private land and this is to help with _____ ? On the southeast region on the 9-mile, one of these hunts is in the Green River valley to address depredation in that area and the other one is next to Price in the 9-mile unit. On the San Juan Abajo, the unit for this is actually the city limits in the town of Monticello and it's the resident deer that are causing problems there. In the central region on the Wasatch Mountains west, we had a fire up Steep Creek and this is to reduce that population to allow that to come back and then on the Oquirrh Stand they have some range concerns and also some density concerns as well. In the southern region, we're recommending some decreases on the Monroe, we don't feel like we have to harvest as many there as other places. Recommending an increase on the Pine Valley for rest and depredation of these herds. On the Plateau Boulder recommended a decrease and on the Southwest Boulder, that hunt is skimming around the town of Garrison. On the elk. So looking at elk populations trends it's interesting to note this last year in the state of Utah, (which I think was expected) when we passed the new statewide elk hunt, we had a lot more tools to deal with the elk hunt in the state. A lot of these tools are centered around conflict resolution. With the open winter we had, this January (inaudible)_____ impact on the Wasatch. We just didn't have the conflict so we didn't have the heart. And so with that, we had lower harvest rates around the state. I think the important thing, when we're at 81,000, we do have the tools how to manage this _____and give back to the population objective. The majority of all the objectives in the northern region, and in that area it is primary private land and they really want this; they would like (inaudible). So if you look at the antlerless draw again in 2013 where we had that peak, we realized that going more public had _____ and it wasn't and we weren't getting the return on our investment and so when you come back down to the new elk hunt, the blue marker are private

landowners. That allows us to offer a permit that addresses elk when we have the conflict and we just _____, but we have more public land. Public draw permits by region. So this is the northern region. On the left hand side, we have the unit, and the populus objective, or the population estimate, the 2017 permits, and then the recommended permits for 2018. And again, as I mentioned before, the majority of the overage as far as the statewide objective is concerned, is in the northern region. Recommending increases on the Pass, the Morgan South Ridge, East Canyon, and the Kamas Creek. We're also recommending some new hunts on this region. And I had the maps for every new hunt that we're recommending. If the RAC would like to see those? I don't include them in the presentation, but I put them at the end so you can look over those. In the Central region, recommending an increase on the Center Mountain Bugle and a very slight increase on the Wasatch Mountain as well. In the northeastern, though we're below the population objective, recommending decreases on the south slope and the Book Cliffs and an increase on the 9-mile. In the Southeastern region, we have a very small population out on the San Rafael, we're recommending a slight increase there. An increase on the La Sal and San Juan units as well. And then a decrease on the Central Mountains of Manti. And we know with that recommendation on the Manti that we'll grow some elk, but we're well below the population objective there. In the southern region, we're recommending a decrease on the southwest desert, the Mt. Dutton, the Plateau Fishlake, the Zion and the Pine Valley. Recommended increases on the Fillmore, the Monroe, and the Fishlake. Also in the southern region, there's a new hunt recommended on the Monroe, and this is to help mitigate
(inaudible)
(inaudible)

The private landowner permits. Last year, we sold over 3,100 of these to hunt 715 elk with a 22 percent success rates. Now the previous year, we sold about the same number of permits and had double the success rates and that just shows that our _____ (inaudible) _____

(inaudible)
On the pronghorn recommending a very small increase in _____? Looking at this by unit, recommending decreases on the Box Elder, the Cache South Ridge, Rocky Mountain Plateau, and the Southwest Desert. And then _____ (inaudible) population ??? at the San Rafael, _____ conservation at the Fillmore Oak Creek area we can offer???

(inaudible)
And with that, we're recommending a slight increase on the Ogden, and this last one _____ we're recommending an increase on the _____ (inaudible) _____. On to the questions.

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: K. Thank you, Covy. Any questions from the RAC? Braydon?

Braydon Richmond: I've got some questions for you. Can you talk about the word "density"
(inaudible) _____?

Covy Jones: Similar meaning. So what I'm saying is that the density of the animal...it matters and so it appears that you're approaching the same density meaning as a numbers increase.

Braydon Richmond: So kind of the same. Second question. In the past, when you were given boundaries, have any of those changed _____?

Covy Jones: I don't want to get into details of looking at all the boundaries. No. No they're all in the past.

Braydon Richmond: Okay. none changed.

Dave Black: Wade?

Wade Heaton: Sorry this is a little out of our home range. But this north slope West Daggett. What was the overall objective on that?__ (inaudible)_____. What's the region? Is that a lot of private land?

Covy Jones: On elk? I don't have a good answer for that. That's a hard question.

Wade Heaton: We're 350 over objective according to Verland King.

Covy Jones: I'll look at that and I'll call you.

Wade Heaton: Okay.

Dave Black: Verland?

Verland King: When you were looking at Prong for last year, (inaudible) So this year we're on the other side of the mountain; there's not going to be as much winter kill...(inaudible) _____Are you taking that into account when you're putting out the numbers?

Covy Jones: We do take that into account and even though it was a light winter, there were some units that struggled. (inaudible)_____

Verland King: Have you counted the antelope on the Parker region?

Covy Jones: Jim are you here? Yeah, I can get those to you tomorrow.

Verland King: I would have wished you had those numbers.

Dave Black: Craig?

Craig Laub: On the Panguitch Lake, I just noticed that we're way over objective on deer, but you cut the numbers on goats. Why?

Josh Pollock: The bulk of where those permits were, we had a few (inaudible) We had a few in Cottonwood and Summit and we actually kind of combined those hunts together to make a new hunt and we haven't seen the habitat down in the (inaudible)_____we need the permit just kind of stabilized a little bit, so because of that we're focusing on depredation__(inaudible mumbling)_____.

Craig Laub: I just thought with the fire.....(inaudible mumbling)_____you'd _____?

Tammy Pearson: While your still there, that was my question also. Obviously, the wildlife had to

move down off it for a time. What kind of information do you have? Has that grass come back at all?

Josh Pollock: Yeah, you know, it's funny. I think it was a few weeks after that fire burned, it burned so early, it got really good rain, but we didn't see the deer freaked out. In fact, most of the elk really stayed higher than they normally do. They didn't even come down on the Panguitch side until January because of the grass. It kinda died and it burned off, but we had some pretty good grass left because we had good moisture, so we didn't really see a lot of stuff move out.

Dave Black: Questions down on the left? Any questions on the right? If you have any comments, you can comment in the comment portion. But right now, are there any questions from the public? Please state your name for the record when you come up.

Questions from the Public:

Darren Nelson: Darren Nelson. I have a question on the Fishlake on the cow numbers. In 2016, Fishlake's estimated population was 4,400; in 2017, it was 3,700. In 2017, they took 250,000 and now they should've had to only take 150,000. I'd like to know the reasons behind this.

Vance Mumford: So the Fishlake herd is significantly under objective, so we're in the growth mode for that, so we're not issuing a lot of cow elk tags for that unit. We are issuing a few, just to keep the hunts open and to moderate the growth rate of the Fishlake herd. Yeah, low tag numbers for the Fishlake for another year or two. _____(inaudible)_____.

Dave Black: K. Todd?

Todd Abelhouzen: It seems like the ranching population has a concern with how many animals are on the land. How much does it cost to graze a cow on our land every year?

Dave Black: Verland, do you know that? How much is an AUM?

Verland King: I don't even know.

Tammy Pearson: It depends on where you're at too.

Todd Abelhouzen: Just need a broad range. You could even guess if you want.

Tammy Pearson: It really depends on where you're at and whether you're on Forest Service or state owned land.

Todd Abelhouzen: You can give me the politically correct answer from a politician, but I can answer if for you. It's about \$8 or \$9 a year ?

Tammy Pearson: A year? No, it's...it's (interrupted)

Dave Black: What is the question?

Todd Abelhouzen: I think there needs to be some perspective. Look, my question is if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander and if we're gonna sit up here and beat down on why are you giving more tags? Why are you giving more tags? Why are you giving more tags? Then, my shackles are gonna go up! And I've got a lot of cows and hogs, so I know how to ranch, but we're talking about sportsmen here and it seems like you just keep bringing up the livestock and it's just frustrating me!

Sean Kelly: I don't know if I want to get involved in this or not, but it does vary a little bit. This isn't a political answer, but there's different things that the government does and gives permission to do on BLM or property of the state, and it can range anywhere from about \$75 and the state's a little higher, I think the state is about \$70 to \$99, but again to give you some perspective, if you build water for them, an infrastructure like that kind of increases out of what you earn. (inaudible mumbling)

Dave Black: K. Thank you.

Covy Jones: And I used to put bids out for the state and they used to be \$30, sometimes more a unit-- \$30-\$35 AUM.

Dave Black: Gibb, why don't you come up and talk to us in just a minute. We're not trying to cut you off, we want your comments to be on record so you need to be at the microphone. We're gonna let you guys have a comment. Excuse me.

Covy Jones: I also have a Wade question. Wade's also _____(inaudible)_____

Dave Black: Steven do you have question?

Steven Yardley: I'm Steven Yardley. I have a couple of questions. One is I couldn't find anywhere, where it had the pronghorn numbers for the Southwest Desert. Is that one missing that or is that not in this packet? Cause I think that's kind of important information.

Jason Nicholes: So uh, the pronghorn population objective on the Southwest Desert is 3200. We surveyed the unit just this spring, about a week and a half ago and we were at 2350 so just by region.

Steven Yardley: What about Panguitch Lake unit?

Jason Nicholes: The Panguitch Lake unit?

Josh Pollock: On the Panguitch Lake unit, we've got just 300, so it should be 275. We're going to be doing that by next week.

Steven Yardley: Another question I had was, in regards to Panguitch Lake unit, both the deer and the elk numbers on there are significantly over objective. Honestly, and from the fire, a lot of the habitat itself was jeopardized by this fire. My question is, how come the numbers have been released both on the deer antlerless permits and elk antlerless permits, but in previous years, they haven't reduced numbers at all. In fact, they've held the same, and yet they've been reduced or it's suggested that they be reduced, and I'm wondering why that is?

Josh Pollock: As far as the deer, like I said or we mentioned earlier, we haven't had like a multi deer hunt. We've just had those deer hunts, like in the Panguitch Valley, Parowan front, where we get a lot of those wintering deer. Deer coming down early that are impacting private land. That's why we've went and done those permits. We've just increased the one because we've seen the reduction in that habitat loss there. As far as the cow elk permits, we're actually increasing on the draw; we just signed it. We have almost 800 permits this year. We haven't reduced them at all. We just pulled some out of the private landowner permits. The private landowner permits don't show up on there, but there's 75 private landowner permits and 700 other tags. We're going to keep those up and hope to help protect that habitat.

Dave Black: K, thank you. Let's go to the comment section. First comment we have is Gibb Yardley, followed by Kasey King.

Comments from the Public:

Gibb Yardley: I'm Gibb Yardley. I live in Cedar. We put our cattle out here on the west desert in the winter time and over in Garfield and Iron County on the Cedar Mountain in the summertime. Uh, my family has been here a long time. The original settlers settled in this valley in 1856. I'm 85 years old and I've never seen a much drier year than this has been. You've got to give some consideration to these droughts. We're going to have to reduce our cow numbers on the mountain. We've already had to bring some off the desert and start feeding them hay, because the feed's so charred. I just wanted to comment. I heard one of you guys saying that we put all this money to improve these ranges, but we haven't got any increase. I want to tell you, on the Panguitch Lake unit, I remember when these elk first came to this country. We didn't have them when I was a kid, or when I was a young man. When the elk first came, the objective on the Panguitch Lake unit first started out at 400. Then they raised them to 600; then to 800; then to 1000; then 1200; now it's up to 1500, but I don't think they're getting a lot of these elk counted on a lot of these ranges. I've got a friend that went on some of these counts, and he said they missed an awful lot of them and your receipting is down. There's one of the best ____? I've ever seen in my life between Panguitch and Hankstown. I don't think them ____ reside there. They want to be right up on our summer range when the first blade of green grass shows and there up there at 9000 ft. eating it right off. Two years ago, we didn't have a thing there when our cows got there, and this year I'm afraid it's going to be worse. It's a serious problem, I'll tell you for us, because they get there and they eat that forage before it has a chance to start. They want to be right up in that higher country, so you've got to take that in consideration. Now, out there on the Southwest Desert, I remember when they started out there. They wanted 200, then they raised the upper limit to 500, then to 1000. Now, it's about 1400. I know there's a lot more than that out there. Out there, I hope you sportsmen will use all your influence you can, along with us, to get rid of some of them wild horses. They're gonna destroy that Southwest Desert if something isn't done to reduce those numbers. That is serious! And I'll tell ya, on that Southwest Desert, those desert ranges are the most fragile ranges in the world. Once you kill off those lands, they can't be reseeded, they'll never return. And there's places in Nevada where those horses have just killed that range right out; they're choking to death, they're starving to death; they're dying of starvation.

Dave Black: Gibb, we're going to have to cut you off. We appreciate you here. We're just out of time.

Gibb Yardley: I'm just getting started. haha. Well, our recommendation is that we 11 percent cow kill; that's a pretty poor cow kill. We recommend that there be 600 permits issued on the west desert and I'm

glad they're issuing 700 on the Panguitch Lake unit, and I hope they'll get some of those because you've gotta preserve these ranges and these natural resources. So, thank you very much.

Dave Black: Thank you. So now we have Paul Niemeyer, Kasey King. Kasey, you have a comment card. Was it this item that you wanted to come up on? Okay. You'll follow Paul. No Paul, so Kasey, you're up followed by Troy.

Kasey King: Kasey King. Regarding the money spent on these SFW and I'm probably a big supporter of them, because the reason is, in probably the early 70's on the Boulder Mountain, and ever since then, it's been increasing. So there was just enough to manage what our cows had then to take care of what we had, and so, a foundation like Sportsmen's had come along, makes all this money to put into it. It's a very good thing to have because they need to get enough range improvements, in order for them to run the animals and in order for us to run the animals, and they're here to support it to get those improvements to where we can all be there together to make it work. It can't just keep going up and up and up, but it can stay where the objectives are. If we get the money that comes to them, and the money that the ranchers have put into it, we can make this all work together and keep our numbers to where they are and everybody can make it work, make it happen and make it better for everybody. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Troy Justensen: Troy Justensen from SFW. We're proud to support the Division's recommendations. I want to address a couple of falsehoods. Tammy, you said that you weren't given....? You know the part it gets from Utah; there's no funding throughout Utah. So that's when Sportsmen got together and got on the draw and it's a sacrifice. These permits come from you and I that we no longer have the opportunity to draw from in hopes that we can raise enough money to invest back into the resource where we have more opportunity and we've proved that successfully. We have more acreage than all other states combined. That's something to be proud of. It's benefitted not only sportsmen but it's benefitted the livestock as well. I get a little bit frustrated when I hear, "We've got to get along, we've got to understand the livestock owners." Like I've stated before, "Never once have we asked the livestock cut." Can you imagine the tensions in this room if we support the comments and asked them that your AUM be cut? Just because? We would never do that, but a lot of times, that's the same way we feel. I sat in an elk meeting here in this town. We discussed raising the objective on the Beaver. It needed discussing. It passed. After the committee meeting, one of the livestock operators here grabbed me and said, "You know, Troy, it's not about elk. You know as well as I do, there's nothing my cows and your elk, that until we get our AUM, we're gonna fight for tooth and nail." I have a problem with that. So, now it just becomes vindictive, just because you guys aren't able to get your AUM, now you're gonna try to put shackles on us. We're willing to stand and fight side by side with you, to help you get those. We support the livestock industry. You say that you don't have that money, but quite honestly, the cattle association is doing the same thing. They can percentage your cow and put them up to auction every year, put them in a fund and improve habitat. We, 100 percent, really need to band together. And, doggone, man, we really try to pull our weight every way we can and it'd be nice not to have the fight all the time. We understand there's places that have issues that we have to work out, but it seems that at every turn, we have 0 percent support from the livestock industry, and we're doing everything we can to benefit for it. Never underestimate what sportsmen have done in this state because they've made a big sacrifice. Thank you.

Dave Black: Todd, one of your comments got put on hold. Did you want to come up? You'll be

followed by Nolan Gardner.

Todd Abelhouzen: Um, I was on the state, the governor's committee for livestock and ranch and wildlife and we started out the meeting similar to the energy that you gentleman start putting one group against another group, and then it finally came down to it. We recognized and realized what the only way for us to benefit was to work together and to create more forage, create more habitat, create more opportunity, more public awareness. The Iron County Commissioners just battled and fought for wild horse management and I really want to recommend and recognize what Troy just said. The only reason that I put my finger in your eye a minute ago when I talked about AUM's is because we are creating more opportunities for more AUM'S and the federal government does not own that land. It's the citizens of the state of Utah that own that land and the federal government hasn't provided it to us. Their duty is in the Constitution. Now, they have more bullets than we do, they have more helicopters than we do, and it seems like they have more power than we do, but if you recognize what Troy was also suggesting, don't underestimate the sportsmen. We've got some people in key positions to make major changes in Washington D.C. The guy with the comb-over, the President of the United States isn't a stupid human being, and has appointed and allowed for some processes to take place that will give us the opportunity to move the spectrum back to when you develop 100,000 acres in Iron, Beaver, Garfield, Piute, or Wayne County, you should have the opportunity to increase your AUMs by a certain percentage and you should have the opportunity to increase your wildlife production by a certain percentage and you should create more of an opportunity for the birdwatchers and the tree huggers and all those other guys that don't spend a dollar for our counties. But, I wanted to the realization that we have an opportunity to grow the elk herd, we have the opportunity to build the wild sheep, the bison. We are not going to do it at your detriment, the ranchers. We're not going to do it. We're going to do it at your benefit. I spent 17 days on _____, chasing the elusive great white super elk, and that is an amazing habitat because of the rehabilitation that has been done. The water projects have been developed and I think a lot of that. So, I didn't mean to pick a fight. I wanted to let you guys know that we're passionate, but we're also passionate from the perspective that we have the opportunity to go to 100,000 elk. Oh my gosh! That may seem crazy. But if we get rid of 50 million cedar trees and rehabilitate 500,000 acres, we have the capabilities of doing that and increasing your AUMs on livestock, so thank you.

Dave Black: Thanks Todd. Nolan you'll be followed by Steven Yardley.

Nolan Gardner: I had a question. Is the elk count down on the Dutton this year?

Responder: It's not. Uh, I've been on that quite a bit the last several years, but that herd has done nothing but dropped and deprecate. I know there's been questions in the past about how that elk count has been down and how if the cows have been killed at the right time. I'm here to tell you, there's not very many elk on that mountain and we need to look at that real seriously and do some serious cutting. We cut it 25 times on the cows, that's nothing. We need to cut and not put so many cow elk on that unity unit and let it come back a little bit. I can't believe that that count that you've got is in your quote. I can't believe we're there close to that objective.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Steven Yardley- Again my name is

Dave Black- Going to have to cut you off there

Steven Yardley- Well like my dad said I think

Dave Black- thank you, okay we have

Jesse Hatch- Jesse Hatch I would just like to

Dave Black- What unit was that

Jesse Hatch- the Plateau

Dave Black- K thank you

Garrick Hall- I'm Garrick Hall

Dave Black- Thank you

Steven Yardley- One thing I forgot to mention

Dave Black- Okay we will

RAC discussion and vote:

Wade Heaton- I apologize if this

Dave Black- Go ahead Craig.

Craig Laub- I asked Kevin when would

Dave Black- k and that might be

Craig Laub- K I would like to make that

Dave Black – Do we have a second

Verland King- I Second

Kevin Bunnell- Okay, Craig let me know

Craig Laub- Yup

Dave Black- K and that motion carries

Braydon Richmond- Im going to be specific

Covy Jones- So I can answer the first

Jason Nicholes- So on the southwest desert

Braydon Richmond- Great thank you

Kevin Bunnell- Jason do you want

Jason Nicholes- So in 2016

Dave Black- Riley

Riley Roberts- I would first like the thank

Dave Black- okay

Sean Kelly- yeah Mr. Chairman I would

Dave Black- K Wade

Wade Heaton- I'm not a very good rubber

Dave Black- any further comment

Tammy Pearson- I was trying to second

Dave Black- thank you

Riley Roberts made the motion to accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2018 as presented. Sean Kelly seconded. Motion carried 10-0

**2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
-Mike Wardle, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

Mike Wardle- K so im Mike Wardle

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black- Any questions from

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black- Any questions from the

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black- Any comments from the public

RAC discussion and vote:

Wade Heaton- I will need to exclude

Dave Black- it doesn't

Rusty Aiken- I would like to make

Craig Laub- Second

Dave Black – A second from Craig

Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the 2018 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented. Craig Laub seconded. Motion carried 9-0 with 1 abstention

**Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes
-Justin Shirley, Law Enforcement Captain**

Justin Shirley- I hope that

Dave Black- we have been

Justin Shirley- I would like to thank

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black- K any questions from the rac

Kevin Bunnell- j just to clear this up

Justin Shirley- we are

Kevin Bunnell- okay

Justin Shirley- most the time it would be

Kevin Bunnell-k

Rusty Aiken- question what about

Justin Shirley- Great question this

Dave Black- k

Brian Johnson- What is the

Justin Shirley- so we have a

Kevin Bunnell- I have never heard

Brian Johnson- it is south of

Justin Shirley- thank you

Dave Black- any other

Questions from the Public:

Jason Aiken-Sorry I have a question

Justin Shirley- Thanks for clarifying

Dave Black- thank you

Justin Shirley- Sorry can I say one more thing

Comments from the Public:

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson- I make a motion

Dave Black- Do we have

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Poaching Reported Reward Permit Program Changes Recommendations as presented Wade Heaton seconded. Motion carried 10-0

Other Business

-Dave Black, Chairman

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.