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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Councils

FROM: Covy Jones, Wildlife Section Chief

DATE: May 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Overview of recommended changes to R657-41, Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule

Esteemed members of the RAC and the Utah Wildlife Board, the list below is a synopsis of the major recommended changes to rule R657-41. For the full list of changes, please review the rule redline, included in the RAC packet.

- Remove cougar as a conservation permit species.
- General cleanup to the definitions section and removal of items that are not true definitions.
- Change in the season type and draft order for elk and deer conservation permits.
- Remove the season extension variance clause for unit conservation permits.
- Clarify that the Division will notify the Wildlife Board as to the results of the conservation permit distribution post conservation permit draft.
- Reinforce that Conservation Groups are required to have both a COR issued by the Division and a contract with the Division in order to sell conservation permits.
- Allow a Conservation organization to sell a permit to the runner-up bidder when the winning bidder defaults as long as the original high bid price is met.
- Clarifies that retained revenue must be spent in a manner according to the Divisions strategic plan and or consistent with a conservation species management plan.
- Extend unit conservation Bighorn permits through December 31.
 - Previously done through a variance.
- Other cleanup and organization.