

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

August 27, 2020, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtu.be/dKeevoc88vM>

**Thursday, August 27, 2020 – 9:00 am**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Byron Bateman, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021<br>– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021<br>– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator    | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Proposed Sensitive Species Recommendations<br>– Kimberly Hersey, DWR Mammal Conservation Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Expo Permit Audit<br>– Kenny Johnson, Admin. Services Chief  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Expo Contract<br>– Kenny Johnson, Admin. Services Chief  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. Expo Permit Allocation<br>– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief                                  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. Expo Permit Rule Amendments<br>– Kenny Johnson, Admin. Services Chief                               | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. Other Business<br>– Byron Bateman, Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

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

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.*

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

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

**Wildlife Board Motions**

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

Fall 2020 – Target Date – Premium Fishing Areas

**MOTION: To have the division look into the possibility of designating premium fishing areas - that allow artificial flies and lures only- to have increased license requirements and fees and to bring the information back during the next recommendation cycle.**

Motion made by: Byron Batemen

Assigned to: Randy Oplinger

Action: Under Study

Status: Pending

Placed on Action Log: September 27, 2018

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 4, 2020, Electronic Meeting

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/X6mw9-bYwV0>

**Revised June 2, 2020**

## AGENDA

**Thursday, June 4, 2020 – 9:00 am**

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**  
– Byron Bateman, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**  
– Byron Bateman, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**  
– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chair
4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**  
– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director
5. Book Cliffs Working Group Update **INFORMATION**  
– Miles Hanberg, NE Region Supervisor
6. Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations **ACTION**  
– Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
7. Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
– Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
8. AIS Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
– Bruce Johnson, AIS Lieutenant
9. Walk-in Access Rule Amendments **ACTION**  
– Bryan Christensen, Volunteer Services Coordinator
10. ~~Wildlife Board Stipulations~~ **ACTION**  
~~— Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General~~ **POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE**
11. Prohibited Species Variance Request **ACTION**  
– Drew Dittmer, Native Species Program Coordinator
12. Other Business **CONTINGENT**  
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

**Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting**  
June 4, 2020  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Summary of Motions**

1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**

2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 30, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting**

3) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed 4-2 with Wade Heaton and Donnie Hunter opposed.

**MOTION: I move that the Board does not approve the use of air rifles for upland game until they are approved for Pittman-Robertson tax.**

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the upland game recommendations as presented by the Division.**

4) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendations and amendments as presented.**

5) AIS Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendations as presented.**

6) Walk-in Access Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the recommendations as presented.**

7) Prohibited Species Variance Request (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the variance as presented.**

DRAFT

**Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting**  
June 4, 2020  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Online Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman – Chair	Karl Hirst
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chair	Donnie Hunter
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Randy Dearth
	Wade Heaton
	Bret Selman

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Brock McMillan  
Southern – Brayden Richmond  
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin  
Northeastern – Brett Prevedel  
Northern – Justin Oliver

**Presenters**

Heather Talley	Miles Hanberg
Blair Stringham	Drew Dittmer
Bruce Johnson	
Bryan Christensen	

**Public invited to join online:** <https://youtu.be/X6mw9-bYwV0>

## Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting

June 4, 2020

Salt Lake City, UT

The meeting will stream live at: <https://youtu.be/X6mw9-bYwV0>

- 00:00:06** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order, thanked the presenters and Regional Area Councils, and did a roll call.
- 00:02:02** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**
- 00:02:47** **2) DWR Update (Informational)**  
Director Fowlks updated the Board on the Division's success in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, habitat project funding, and the Habitat, Aquatics, Wildlife, Conservation Outreach and Law Enforcement sections projects, efforts and achievements.
- 00:00:00** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**  
There were no items to discuss from the Action Log.
- 00:10:00** **4) Approval of Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 30, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting**
- 00:10:50** **5) Book Cliffs Working Group Update (Informational)**  
Division of Wildlife Resources Northeastern Region Supervisor Miles Hanberg gave a presentation on the Book Cliffs Working Group's spring 2020 finalized strategic action plan.
- 00:35:18** **Board Questions and Discussion**  
The Board asked about horse population challenges in the Book Cliffs, funding for Book Cliffs habitat projects, and voiced support for the Book Cliffs Working Group's presented strategies.
- 6) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (Action)**  
Chairman Bateman noted that there would be no presentations given during the meeting, and also that Division of Wildlife Resources personnel were present in the meeting and available to answer questions. Heather Talley gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.
- 00:44:42** **Public Comments**

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

**00:45:45 RAC Recommendation**

All RACs passed the rule amendments with varying stipulations and opposition.

**00:49:56 Public Comments/Division Clarification**

Director Fowlks provided the percentage numbers of public responses in support of, opposed to, or neutral on the proposed recommendations.

**00:50:22 Board Questions and Discussion**

The Board asked for clarification on the Division's recommendation to allow airguns on the fall turkey hunt, if airguns are allowed on any other hunt, and what the status is of airgun manufacturers registering to pay the Pittman-Robertson excise tax. It was stated by one Board Member that historically the Wildlife Board has disapproved of allowing hunting tools that do not pay Pittman-Robertson tax.

**00:55:45 Airgun Allowance**

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed 4 in favor and 2 opposed. Wade Heaton and Donnie Hunter opposed.

**MOTION: I move that the Board does not approve the use of air rifles for upland game until they are approved for Pittman-Robertson tax.**

**00:56:25 Board Questions and Discussion**

The Board asked if there were an example in big game hunting that might motivate manufacturers to obtain Pittman-Robertson classification. The Board expressed support for adding to the motion a deadline by which airguns need to be eligible for the Pittman-Robertson excise tax.

**01:00:13** The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rest of upland game recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**01:00:57 7) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendment (Action)**

Blair Stringham gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

**01:01:17 Public Comments**

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

**01:02:43 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs unanimously passed the recommendations and rule amendment as presented.

**01:04:16 Board Questions and Discussion**

There were no questions from the Board or RAC members.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendations and amendment as presented.**

**01:05:02 8) AIS Rule Amendments (Action)**

Bruce Johnson gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

**01:05:13 Public Comments**

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

**01:05:55 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs unanimously passed the recommendations and rule amendment as presented.

**01:07:45 Board Questions and Discussion**

There were no questions from the Board or RAC members.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendments as presented.**

**01:08:36 9) Walk-in Access Rule Amendments (Action)**

Bryan Christensen gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

**01:08:43 Public Comments**

Director Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

**01:09:02 Board Questions and Discussion**

The Board asked how much revenue is generated from the Walk-in Access Program.

**01:09:38 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs passed the rule amendments with varying stipulations and opposition.

**01:11:56 Board Questions and Discussion**

The Board asked if the Division could accommodate the Northern RAC concern for providing Walk-in Access Program property user land use information. The Board asked what the total cost to the Division is in payments to landowners, and if there were a cost-per-participant figure.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Bret Selman and

passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rule amendments as presented.**

**01:19:36 8) Prohibited Species Variance Request (Action)**

Division of Wildlife Resources Native Species Coordinator Drew Dittmer gave a presentation on the request for a variance at the Great Basin Serpentarium.

**01:21:46 Board Questions and Discussion**

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the variance as presented.**

**01:22:30 9) Other Business (Contingent)**

The Board discussed the scheduled June 25<sup>th</sup> Wildlife Board Working Meeting.

The Division updated the Board on the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies July 2020 conference.

The Division updated the board on the budget allocation for Habitat Section projects on the Book Cliffs.

**01:31:05 Meeting adjourned.**

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

## Utah Wildlife Board Work Session

June 25, 2020, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Meeting can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/cD1KPcVkebA>

### AGENDA

Revised June 19, 2020

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**  
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

2. Division Update  
– Mike Fowlks, Director

**Items of Discussion – NOTE: The Wildlife Board will not be taking action on any of the following informational items. This meeting is discussion only. Public comment will not be accepted, however the public may view the meeting live at:**<https://youtu.be/cD1KPcVkebA>.

3. Mule Deer  
State of mule deer and what comes next (Hirst)  
Population objectives and current populations (Bateman)  
Buck:doe ratios, a statewide perspective on general season units

4. Predator Management  
Predator Control Presentation  
Predator and Predator Management Plans (Heaton)  
Cougar Harvest (Bateman)  
Harvest to date (Bateman)  
Coyote Bounty  
Wildlife Services removal efforts (Bateman)

5. Wildlife Board Process and Functionality (Hirst, Heaton)

6. Habitat Projects  
Projects approved and those awaiting funding that are critical to mule deer  
List of critical mule deer projects (Bateman)  
Presenter: Daniel Eddington - Remote

7. Conservation Permit Dollars  
Uncommitted dollars (Bateman)  
Presenter: Kenny Johnson - Remote

8. Expo Contract  
Presenter: Kenny Johnson - Remote

9. WMA Access Discussion (Heaton)

10. Other business

– Byron Bateman, Chairman

**Summer WAFWA – July 9 – 14, 2020**

List of Virtual Wildlife Board Attendees

**WORK SESSION PROTOCOL**

1. This work session will contain both in-person and electronic elements, but due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic and the associated safety guidelines put in place by the CDC, the State of Utah, and local health departments, the number of in-person attendees will be minimized and include only those essential to addressing the work session agenda items.
2. In-person attendees will gather at an anchor location which will be established at the Department of Natural Resources complex in Salt Lake City. In-person attendees will include: Board members, DWR Director, DNR Executive Director, RAC/Board Coordinator, Wildlife Section Chief, Big Game Coordinator, Big Game Projects Coordinator, Mammals Coordinator, invited University researchers, and the DNR/DWR technical support staff needed to run the meeting. In person attendees will be held to less than 20 individuals.
3. All other DWR staff including Regional Supervisors, Wildlife Managers, District Biologists, and Wildlife Program Coordinators will participate in the work session electronically via Google Meet to provide information and answer questions that the Board may have. RAC chairs will also be invited to participate via Google Meet.
4. Because this is a work session that contains no recommendations, motions or voting by the Board, there will be no public comment taken. The public can view the work session live via a Youtube link.

**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**  
June, 2020, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman – Chair	Randy Dearth	Donnie Hunter
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chair	Wade Heaton	Bret Selman
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Karl Hirst	

**In Person and Remote Division Personnel**

Robin Cahoon	Staci Coons	Teresa Griffin	Roger Kerstetter
Ashley Green	Greg Hansen	Dax Mangus	Wyatt Bubak
Mike Canning	Marty Bushman	Riley Peck	Chad Bettridge
Jason Vernon	Faith Jolley	Guy Wallace	Dave Beveridge
Miles Hanberg	Darren DeBloois	Jim Christensen	Matt Briggs
Chris Wood	Kim Hersey	Kent Hersey	Paul Washburn
Kevin Bunnell	Lindy Varney	Covy Jones	Bruce Johnson
Ben Nadolski	Justin Shannon	Austin Grimes	Rick Olson
J Shirley	Kenny Johnson	Torrey Christopherson	Phil Gray

**BYU Research Professors**

Dr. Randy Larsen  
Dr. Brock McMillan

**Utah Wildlife Board Working Meeting**  
June 25, 2020, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
<https://youtu.be/cD1KPcVkebA>

**00:00:01** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order.

**00:00:27** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.**

**00:00:42** **2) Division Updates (Informational)**

Director Fowlks updated the Board on COVID-19 impacts within the Division, the outcome of the Executive Appropriation Committee's budget modifications, the July, 2020 virtual WAFWA conference and the 2022 WAFWA conference.

**00:05:36** **3) Mule Deer (Informational)**

DWR Big Game Coordinator Covy Jones, Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey and BYU research professors Dr. Randy Larsen and Dr. Brock McMillan gave a presentation on the DWR mule deer management plan.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked questions about deer population objectives and carrying capacity, and suggested making hunting permit recommendations based on a targeted evaluation of mule deer herds on each hunting unit. The Board also discussed hunter satisfaction surveys and statewide buck-to-doe ratios.

**02:59:07** **Break for Lunch**

**03:37:00** **4) Predator Management (Informational)**

Game Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois and Wildlife Section Chief Justin Shannon gave a presentation on the DWR predator management plan.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked questions about the complex relationship between deer and mountain lion populations, and discussed the overall mountain lion management plan.

**04:43:01** **5) Wildlife Board Process and Functionality (Discussion)**

Karl Hirst voiced concern about the Board having previously voted on a change to a recommendation without the public having had an opportunity to give input. The Board discussed if they should modify the process should the same set of circumstances arise in the future.

**04:58:00** **6) Habitat Projects (Informational)**

Habitat Conservation Coordinator Daniel Eddington gave a presentation about the

Watershed Restoration Initiative.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

There were no questions from the Board.

**05:19:02 7) Conservation Permit Dollars (Informational)**

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson updated the Board on conservation funds performance.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board asked about matching funds, if funds were being allocated for mule deer projects and if recent conservation partner auctions were successful given COVID-19 restrictions.

**05:26:28 8) Expo Contract (Informational)**

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson updated the Board on the Expo Contract.

**Board Questions & Discussion**

The Board discussed the bighorn sheep tags specified in the Expo Contract.

**05:36:53 9) WMA Access Discussion (Discussion)**

The Board asked what Wildlife Management Area access is as it pertains to mountain lions and mountain lion hunting.

**05:50:26 10) Other Business**

The Board discussed the July 2020 WAFWA conference, the current 48-hour requirement to present a harvested mountain lion and shed antler hunting. Chairman Bateman thanked the Division of Wildlife Resources for the exceptional quality of presented data.

**06:14:37** Meeting adjourned.

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

July 14, 2020, DNR Auditorium

Electronic Participation Only

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtu.be/EAFEqZm8YTE>

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 10:00 am**

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
  - Byron Bateman, Chairman
  
2. Wildlife Board Stipulation – Van Woerkom **ACTION**
  - Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General
  
3. Wildlife Board Stipulation - Richins **ACTION**
  - Greg Hansen, Assistant Attorney General
  
4. Other Business
  - Byron Bateman, Chairman

There will be no public comment accepted during the electronic Wildlife Board Meeting.

**Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting**  
July 14, 2020  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Summary of Motions**

1) Wildlife Board Stipulation – Van Woerkom (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the stipulation as presented for Erik Van Woerkom.**

2) Wildlife Board Stipulation – Richins (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for a continuance on this case.**

**Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting**  
July 14, 2020  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
Online Attendance

<b>Wildlife Board</b>		<b>Presenter(s)</b>
Byron Bateman – Chair	Karl Hirst	Greg Hansen
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chair	Donnie Hunter	Blake Hamilton
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Randy Dearth	Michael Begley
	Wade Heaton	Aaron Owens

**Public invited to join online:** <https://youtu.be/EAFEqZm8YTE>

DRAFT

**Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting**

July 14, 2020

Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://youtu.be/EAFEqZm8YTE>

- 00:00:08** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order. He called the roll and confirmed that all board members were present with exception of Bret Selman.
- 00:01:23** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**  
The Wildlife Board members present acknowledged the receipt of an agenda and moved forward to the first agenda item.
- 00:01:01** **2) Wildlife Board Stipulation – Van Woerkom (Action)**  
Assistant Attorney General Greg Hansen presented the details of the stipulation and a brief history of the case.
- 00:5:26** Chairman Bateman recapped and confirmed the presence of all board members including Michael Begley the attorney representing the board. The Wildlife Board paused the hearing in order to allow Mr. Van Woerkom’s attorney, Mr. Blake Hamilton, a chance to join the meeting electronically.
- 00:9:36** Mr. Van Woerkom’s attorney was unable to join electronically but communicated thru email that they were in agreement with the stipulation. The board held further discussion and then moved into Executive Session to discuss.
- 00:13:20** **Donnie Hunter makes the motion to go into private session to discuss the stipulation and amended order. Karl Hirst seconds the motion. A roll call vote was taken with the board unanimously voting to close the session.**
- 00:15:05** **Closed Session**
- 00:38:56** **The Wildlife Board returned from closed session. During the closed session Mr. Hamilton was able to connect to the electronic meeting and shared his agreement with the stipulation, also stating that his client would release his claims against the state with the approval of this stipulation.**  
**The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously**  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the stipulation as presented for Erik D.Van Woerkom.**
- 00:45:27** **3) Wildlife Board Stipulation – Richins (Action)**  
Assistant Attorney Greg Hansen presented some new developments in this case that have come to the attention of both himself and opposing council, Aaron

Owens recently. Both councils would like additional time to sort through the new information and present the stipulation to the board at a later time.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously:

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for a continuance on this case.**

**00:52:46** Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

July/August RAC Meetings  
Electronic Format  
**Summary of Motions**

**1) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021**

**All RAC's**

MOTION: Accept the DWR's recommendations as presented.  
Passed: Unanimously

**2) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021**

**CR**

MOTION: Accept the DWR's amended recommendation to allow cougar pursuit and harvest if you have a valid bear pursuit tag on LaSal, Abajo, Book Cliffs units.

Passed: 7 in favor and 1 opposed

MOTION: Recommend that obtaining a spot and stalk tags does not effect bonus points.

Passed: Unanimously

MOTION: Accept the DWR's recommendations as presented.

Passed: 6 in favor and 2 opposed

**NR**

MOTION: I move that we ban the taking of all collared cougars with the exception of spot and stock clarifying this would not affect the taking of depredating animals

Passed: 7 in favor and 4 opposed

MOTION: Accept the remaining balance of Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 as presented.

Passed: 10 in favor and 1 opposed

**SR**

MOTION: I move to reject the restrictions to pursue Cougars on the San Juan, La Sal and Book Cliff units and make them consistent with the general regulations

Passed: 7 in favor and 1 opposed

MOTION: I move to allow trapping as a legal method of take for Cougars by the public on Predatory Management Program units.  
Failed: 3 in favor and 6 opposed

MOTION: Accept the remainder of the Division's Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 as presented.  
Passed: Unanimously

**SER**

MOTION: To accept the cougar recommendations and rule amendments as presented.  
Passed: 6 in favor and 4 opposed

**NER**

MOTION: Maintain one tag per person per season.  
Failed: 3 in favor and 4 opposed

MOTION: A person can have two permits in a season as long as they obtain different types of permits.  
Passed: 5 in favor and 3 opposed

MOTION: To not limit hounds in the summer with a valid lion permit. Mirror the SR RAC motion and would remove fall lion closure on the LaSals.  
Failed: 4 in favor and 4 opposed. The Chairman broke the tie.

MOTION: To remove age reference to the cougar rule and replace with a description to indicate age.  
Passed: Unanimously

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented.  
Passed: 8 in favor and 1 opposed

# Central Region RAC Meeting

## Video Conference

### July 28, 2020

The meeting streamed live at [https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7\\_s2M](https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7_s2M)

**Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 6:00 pm**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Brock McMillan, RAC chair                                      | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Brock McMillan, RAC chair                                     | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update<br>– Brock McMillan, RAC chair                           | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 4. Regional Update<br>– Jason Vernon, Regional Supervisor                                 | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations<br>- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments<br>- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>        |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov)  
***In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.***

Central Region RAC Meeting  
Video Conference  
July 28, 2020  
**Summary of Motions**

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Luke Decker and passed unanimously 7 in favor, 1 abstention.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda.**

2) Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Luke Decker and passed unanimously 7 in favor, 1 abstention due to not attending the previous meeting

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 Central Region RAC meeting.**

3) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously 8 in favor.

**MOTION: Accept the DWR's recommendations as presented.**

4) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Christine Schmitz).

**MOTION: Accept the DWR's amended recommendation to allow cougar pursuit and harvest if you have a valid bear pursuit tag on LaSal, Abajo, Book Cliffs units.**

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: Recommend that obtaining spot and stalk tags does not affect bonus points.**

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Ken Strong and passed 6 in favor and 2 opposed (Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts).

**MOTION: Accept the DWR's recommendations as presented.**

**Central Region RAC Meeting**  
July 28, 2020  
Online Attendance

**RAC Members**

Brock McMillan – RAC Chair

Christine Schmitz

Danny Potts

Eric Reid

Ken Strong

Michael Christensen

Luke Decker

Ben Lowder

Scott Jensen

AJ Mower – excused

Josh Lenart – excused

Steve Lund – absent

Jacob Steele – absent

**DWR Personnel**

Jason Vernon

Riley Peck

Darren DeBloois

Jason Robinson

Greg Hansen

Ben Nadolski

Justin Shannon

Scott Root

Matt Briggs

Dale Liechty

Rusty Robinson

Staci Coons

Mike Christensen

**Public invited to join online:** [https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7\\_s2M](https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7_s2M)  
**Central Region RAC Meeting**  
 July 28, 2020  
 Springville, Utah  
[https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7\\_s2M](https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7_s2M)

<b>00:00:01</b>	RAC Chair Brock McMillan called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel were present on the broadcast. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations or public comments taken during the meeting.
<b>00:03:20</b>	<p><b>1) Approval of Agenda (Action)</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Luke Decker and passed unanimously 7 in favor, 1 abstention due to not attending the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 Central Region RAC meeting.</b></p>
<b>00:03:20</b>	<p><b>2) Approval of Minutes (Action)</b></p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Luke Decker and passed unanimously 7 in favor, 1 abstention due to not attending the previous meeting.</p> <p><b>MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 Central Region RAC meeting.</b></p>
<b>00:04:27</b>	<p><b>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</b></p> <p>RAC Chair Brock McMillan updated the RAC.</p>
<b>00:06:25</b>	<p><b>4) DWR Update (Informational)</b></p> <p>Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
<b>00:15:05</b>	<p><b>5) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-21 (Action)</b></p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: <a href="https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html">https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</a>.</p>
<b>00:15:30</b>	<p><b>Public Comments</b></p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation</p>
<b>00:17:05</b>	<p><b>RAC Questions</b></p> <p>The RAC members asked about response numbers online resident versus non-</p>

	residents.
<b>00:18:55</b>	<b>RAC Discussion</b> No discussion.
<b>00:19:05</b>	The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously 8 in favor.  <b>MOTION: Accept the DWR’s recommendations as presented.</b>
<b>00:20:48</b>	<b>6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-21 (Action)</b>
<b>00:21:00</b>	<b>Public Comments</b> Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.
<b>00:22:20</b>	<b>RAC Questions and Discussions</b> The RAC asked about the bear pursuit or tag and harvesting a lion on 3 units only, continuing to hunt if they do harvest the bear first, restrictions on non-residents pursuing bears, the new spot and stalk hunt, permanent tags, adding verbiage onto the tags, 2 cougar permits, collared animals, how bonus points are affected, and trophy areas.
<b>00:50:05</b>	The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Christine Schmitz).  <b>MOTION: Accept the DWR's amended recommendation to allow cougar pursuit and harvest if you have a valid bear pursuit tag on LaSal, Abajo, Book Cliffs units.</b>
<b>00:56:20</b>	The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder, and passed unanimously, 8 in favor.  <b>MOTION: Recommend that obtaining spot and stalk tags does not affect bonus points.</b>
<b>00:58:18</b>	The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Ken Strong and passed 6 in favor and 2 opposed (Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts).  <b>MOTION: Accept the DWR’s recommendations as presented.</b>
<b>01:00:05</b>	Meeting adjourned.

# Regional Advisory Council Meeting

July 29, 2020

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/WV0O8tDE7mo>

1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **ACTION**  
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- RAC Chair
4. Regional Update **INFORMATIONAL**  
- DWR Regional Supervisor
5. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 **ACTION**  
- Darren Deblois, Mammals Coordinator
6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 **ACTION**  
- Darren Deblois, Mammals Coordinator

## Regional Presentations Only

- SR Beaver WMA Habitat Management Plan **INFORMATIONAL**  
- Gary Bezzant, SR Habitat Manager

CR RAC – July 28, 6:00 PM  
[https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7\\_s2M](https://youtu.be/1ZliDm7_s2M)

SER RAC – Aug 5, 6:30 PM  
<https://youtu.be/SuWIs74R42E>

NR RAC – July 29, 6:00 PM  
<https://youtu.be/WV0O8tDE7mo>

NER RAC – Aug 6, 6:30 PM  
<https://youtu.be/JlAwdpIXNdM>

SR RAC – Aug 4, 7:00 PM  
<https://youtu.be/76YXBNZLckQ>

Board Meeting – Aug 27, 9:00 AM  
<https://youtu.be/dKeevoc88vM>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Summary of Motions**

- 1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes of May 13, 2020 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move to approve the Agenda and Minutes.**

- 2) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 as presented.**

- 3) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Kevin McLeod and passed For: 7 Against: 4. David Earl, Junior Goring, Darren Parry, Casey Snider .

**MOTION: I move that we ban the taking of all collared cougars with the exception of spot and stock clarifying this would not affect the taking of depredating animals.**

The following motion was made by Junior Goring, seconded by David Earl and passed For:10 Against:1. Kristen Purdy.

**MOTION: Accept the remaining balance of Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 as presented.**

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Emily Jensco and passed unanimously.

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**  
July 29, 2020  
Attendance

Ryan Brown  
David Earl  
Junior Goring  
Christopher Hoagstrom  
Randy Hutchison  
Emily Jensco

Matt Klar  
Kevin McLeod  
Darren Parry  
Kristin Purdy  
Casey Snider

Jim Christensen  
Mike Christensen  
Justin Shannon  
Staci Coons  
Sydney Lamb  
Eric Anderson  
Jim Christensen

Vice Chairman Mike Laughter called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures.

**1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes of May 13, 2020 (Action)**

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**

**2) Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Ben Nadolski**

Air rifles not approved for upland game. Balance of divisions upland game recommendations passed. AIS rule accepted as presented. Walk in access rule amendment passed. Prohibited species variance request passed as presented. Migratory upland game and swan rule passed as presented.

**3) Regional Update- Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**

Littering and dumping issues. Difficult fire season with restrictions. ADA fishing dock at Rockport reservoir. Guzzler installation project. Law enforcement shorthanded and helping new recruits. Sterile lake trout stocked in Causey reservoir. Employees working remotely. Online permit sales and high demand. Replacing bridges, culverts and water control structures on WMA's. Large scale control for phragmites. Elk and pronghorn classifications. Collaring deer in the Uintah's. CWMU renewals.

**4) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

**Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor**

Public comments accepted at this time. 15% opposed, 24% neutral, 621% support.

**Questions from RAC Members**

Responses to clarify percentages. Kit fox population monitoring. Threat bobcats pose to big game population.

**RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

None

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison , seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 as presented.**

## 5) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021(Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

### Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

Public comments accepted at this time. 32% opposed, 3.2% neutral, 64.8% support.

\*Casey Snider joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

### Questions from RAC Members

Predator management areas for cougar. Legislation and wording on deer unit management objectives. Harvest objectives for cougar. Comments about the taking of collared lions. Percentage of units in the new cougar management plan. Cost of collaring cougar. Science behind adult female take. Predator management law conflict. Relationships on units and repopulation from migration. Collared cats and issue of sample size of study. Collared animals taken in Cache. Depredation for lions. Amendment to La Sal unit.

### RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Wording clarification of “not banned but discouraged”. Number of collared animals taken.

\***Network Issue 7:16:19 PM (1:16:05)** OBSERVED OUTAGE DURATION: 2 minutes 22 seconds

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Kevin McLeod and passed For: 7 Against: 4. David Earl, Junior Goring, Darren Parry, Casey Snider

**MOTION: : I move that we ban the taking of all collared cougars with the exception of spot and stock clarifying this would not affect the taking of depredating animals.**

The following motion was made by Junior Goring, seconded by David Earl and passed For:10 Against:1. Kristen Purdy.

**MOTION: Accept the remaining balance of Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 as presented.**

Meeting Adjourned. Motion to Adjourn: Made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Emily Jensco and passed unanimously.

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DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
August 04, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**Attendance**

**RAC MEMBERS**

Brayden Richmond – Chairman	Austin Atkinson
Bart Battista	Gene Boardman
Tammy Pearson	Chad Utley
Craig Laub	Verland King
Dan Fletcher	Sean Kelly

**Division Personnel**

Kevin Bunnell	Gary Bezzant
Alyssa Reber	Phil Tuttle
Denise Gilgen	Hal Stout
Kyle Christensen	Staci Coons
Teresa Griffin	Jason Nicholes
Marty Bushman	Cody Evans
Darren DeBloois	Joe Walsh
Levi Watkins	Michael Christensen
Michael Wardle	Randy Dearth
Vance Mumford	

**Wildlife Board Members**

Wade Heaton                      Donnie Hunter

**Southern Regional Advisory County Meeting  
August 04, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**00:01:40** Chairman Brayden Richmond called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

**00:03:11 1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**

**The following motion was made by Craig Laub, seconded by Tammy Pearson. Motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION: I move that we approved the agenda as presented.**

**Brayden Richmond:** Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** And Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**00:04:13 2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**

The following motion was made by Craig Laub, seconded by Tammy Pearson. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I moved that we approved the minutes as presented.**

**Brayden Richmond:** Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** And Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright, thank you. Motion passes unanimously.

**00:04:18 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brayden Richmond**

**Brayden Richmond:** 4 action items which all passed unanimously.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Two board members present to recognize.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright thank you.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Wade and Donnie.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you.

**00:05:39 4) Kevin Bunnell, Regional Update (Informational)**

**Kevin Bunnell:** Remained open and requiring masks and plexi glass set up. Wildlife section deer unit plans updated. Questionnaire going out to gather information. Biologists doing elk and pronghorn classifications. Bear incidents. Forest grouse populations looking good. Monitoring drought conditions. CWD collection. Conservation species program signed 10-year conservation easement. Completed 2 years of a 3-year pilot study. Protocol for habitat treatments. Bat activity in Brian Head fire. Parowan city employees had a flamingo in pond. Aquatics working on treatment to restore cutthroat trout. \$10,000 donation given. Toxic algae blooms. Major fires and rehab process where wildlife habitat was affected. Restrictions in place. Horse gather scheduled August 15-Sept 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Tammy Pearson:** Appreciate DWR and the gather.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you Tammy. Outreach Section reports no change with COVID and dedicated hunters. Staff change. Law enforcement is busy with increase of outdoor activity and getting ready for fall hunts.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Kevin, I appreciate it. Tonight, we only have two action items and an informational item.

**00:16:05 5) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2020-2021 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at  
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

**00:17:05 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

**Kevin Bunnell:** Okay on this particular item we had 38% support, 38% neutral and 23% opposed. 25 comments total.

**00:17:44 Questions from RAC Members**

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Kevin, let's go ahead and open it up for comments.

**Austin Atkinson:** I have no comments.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** I have no comments either.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** I'm in support.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** No comments.

**Tammy Pearson:** I'm supporting as well, no comment.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** No comments.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** I'm good with it.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** No comments.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** No comments.

**00:19:00 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

**00:19:05** The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Chad Utley. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION:** I move that we accept the Furbearers and Bobcat Harvest recommendations from the Division as presented.

**Brayden Richmond:** Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** The motion passes unanimously.

**Darren DeBloois:** Amendment to recommendation.

**Brayden Richmond:** Yeah, go ahead

**Darren DeBloois:** Amendment to season dates.

**Kevin Bunnell:** We're not seeing it Darren.

**Tammy Pearson:** No.

**Darren DeBloois:** I have to hit the share button. La Sal, San Juan and Book Cliffs, East. Original motion was to restrict dogs for lion hunting between April 15<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We would like to add an exception to that recommendation and allow people who have valid bear permits and would be on that unit anyway to hunt lions at the same time.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Darren. Darren can you leave that up. Confused why we would pull 3 units out and leave the rest of the state open. Concerned that we are making this more complicated than it needs to be. Would like your feedback.

**Darren DeBloois:** Bear recommendations were trying to address concerns that land management agencies and law enforcement had with crowding. Difficult for law enforcement to see who was doing what. They asked if we could put restriction so during bear seasons. We decided if they were there anyways, we would let them hunt lions. Trying to avoid overlap and concern law enforcement had.

**Brayden Richmond:** How many recorded incidents?

**Darren DeBloois:** Violation numbers are relatively small. This is more of a general concern that we are getting feedback from law enforcement and land management agencies.

**Brayden Richmond:** Attempted to resolve concern with bear tags. Now we are concerned that guys will go get lion tags and some of them will use that as an excuse to chase bears. We are trying to stop the group that are already breaking the law.

**Darren DeBloois:** No, this is, the concern with the bears was the number of non-residents that were coming in because they do not have bear hunting available in their states. Bear recommendations did not limit residents but it does limit non-residents during that spring pursuit season. This has no impact to residents. Primarily affecting non-residents in the spring.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright, that's probably good.

**Verland King:** Input regarding trapping cougars.

**Darren DeBloois:** We aren't recommending general use of traps for lions. If someone needed to address a specific problem, the director can authorize the use of traps or snares. We are not recommending that for recreational purposes.

**Verland King:** Give lion tags in certain areas.

**Darren DeBloois:** We aren't recommending that.

**Austin Atkinson:** Increasing bag limit to 2 cougars per year. You can purchase 4 tags.

**Darren DeBloois:** You can have a combination of two permits.

**Austin Atkinson:** As long as you didn't buy a spot and stock earlier in the year?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right, the most you could have would be 2 permits of some kind and the most you could take would be 2.

**Austin Atkinson:** Okay, thank you.

**Gene Boardman:** Isn't it already in the guidebook that you can take 2 cougar? What are you proposing that is different than the guidebook.

**Darren DeBloois:** Right now you can only take 2 if you are hunting unlimited. There are 4 units in the state that are classified as an unlimited unit. You can get a second permit to take a second lion on those units. We are proposing to allow a second lion to be harvested statewide on any open units. Want to get harvest numbers up to address concerns with prey base.

**Austin Atkinson:** Is the over the counter permit \$30 for resident and non-resident?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, it would be the same. It is a tag that already exists on the books.

**Austin Atkinson:** Okay.

**Gene Boardman:** What kind of impact are you expecting the spot and stock to have?

**Darren DeBloois:** It's probably going to be minimal Gene. Idaho has a similar hunting during big game season. 20% incidental harvest.

**Bart Battista:** Have any agencies using collars expressed concern regarding proposals?

**Darren DeBloois:** These are all our collars. In the guidebook, we recommend people don't take collared animals. One exception would be for depredation.

**Austin Atkinson:** You said that was something they could not be ticketed for. The way I read it, was that you would designate certain units where it is illegal to take a collared lion?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, I think there's been a little confusion. Recommending to change some language in the rule that would allow the division to do that. In order for us to prohibit the take of a collard animal, we would need to put in the guidebooks specific units where that would be prohibited. Rule was unclear and interpretation was confusing. Not recommending any units to prohibit take.

**Bart Battista:** Would that prohibition have to go through this process?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yes, we would recommend it during the process.

**Bart Battista:** Last year, there was some hate and discontent about some of the numbers.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I think if we'd seen more take. Most of the take has been on one unit. Most of those were depredation.

**Brayden Richmond:** With new legislation and rule is to allow sportsman to take cougar while hunting other species. Do we have a method getting the word out that is available?

**Darren DeBlois:** We have done some press releases. I can work with outreach to reach big game hunters specifically.

**Brayden Richmond:** Yes, it just seems to me like it would be a great opportunity to work with the average sportsman. If they understood, the publicity would be a real positive.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I'll make some phone calls. That is a good suggestion.

**Austin Atkinson:** How do the spot and stock harvest play into the quotas on the units they are taken on.

**Darren DeBlois:** They won't count right now towards the annual quota.

**Austin Atkinson:** You could have a spot and stock tag, a split unit limited objective tag. If someone was in the field and happened to see a lion without his dogs, he could take that and put his spot and stock permit on it and continue hunting limited objective.

**Darren DeBlois:** Right, yeah, the only restriction would be if you have a spot and stock permit and no other permit, you can't have dogs with you.

**Austin Atkinson:** Right.

**Darren DeBlois:** If you have both tags, you could use dogs during the hound season. But prior to that, even if you had a harvest objective tag, you could not use dogs until that season opens. Appropriate permit for appropriate season.

**Bart Battista:** For the predator management plans unit that have unlimited quota, was that across the board for unlimited?

**Darren DeBlois:** The objective of those plans is to reduce predator densities. Looking at available deer data.

**Bart Battista:** Indication if any of the units are going to drop off or are more going to be added?

**Darren DeBlois:** We will evaluate those twice a year and look at harvest next spring and get deer numbers in December. Then, we will look again in June. Plans will be evaluated twice a year.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you.

**00:46:05**      **6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2020-2021 (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at  
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

**00:46:15**      **Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

**Kevin Bunnell:** On this agenda item the results were 27% supportive, 4% neutral and 70% opposed.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you Kevin. Opposition had a broad spectrum of reasons

**00:47:20**      **Questions from RAC Members**

**Verland King:** Everyone wants a trophy. Really cant manage cougars because there are so many other things that are playing in. In some of these areas, we need to look at the furbearer part of the regulations and sell some cougar tags to furbearers. Missing a big opportunity to get numbers down which you will not get with houndmen and with these tags.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Verland.

**Sean Kelly:** No comment.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yeah, I'm just concerned about the number of cougars affecting deer and sheep. Need to work on getting numbers down.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Craig. Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** No comments.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** I'd agree with you Brayden. There is really not a consistency in the opposition. Alternatives offered did not make sense to me. Agree with Verland and Craig. I like the opportunity of spot and stock and Verland's idea as a furbearer where problem cats are.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Tammy, Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Multiple tools available to control cougar population. Don't know if furbearer is a tool but it should be a possibility.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Chad, Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** I'm not sure where I am on this war on cougars. How well documented is the cougar problem? Houndsmen determines cougar harvest in Utah. Spot and stock is not going to take care of it. You will have to convince houndsmen to take more cats.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Gene. Bart?

**Bart Battista:** From some of the reading I've done, its hard to find cause of deer herds. It is all over the map. Predator management plans and trying to find out impacts on cougar populations.

**Brayden Richmond:** It has already passed, so it may not be a place for a motion. Part of the process is to be heard and we appreciate your input.

**Bart Battista:** Thanks.

**Brayden Richmond:** Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** Suggest we advise the division to put out a better survey to the public on this topic. Read through comments with groups suggest changes and other groups say nothing. Like to see recommendations specific to changes and be broken into their own questions on the survey. Option to add comments on that question. In need of simplification with cougar guidebook and season dates and recommendations. No pursuit for cougar on the La Sal, San Juan and Book Cliffs, East. Comments show that is not a supported decision. I would not be in support of that recommendation. Would not like to see the collared lion regulation even be an option for the division to enforce that.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Austin. It seems to me we are passing the rule on top of a rule. Limiting pursuit of cougars in the summer. Subsections of laws that are complicated. Limiting opportunity that does not need to be limited. Like to see that aligned with the rest of the state.

**Chad Utley:** I don't know how we are making a rule on top of a rule.

**Brayden Richmond:** I would like Darren's input. We are trying to stop bad behavior and bad behavior is already regulated. We are making it more difficult to behave badly. The problem occurred because of a high density of houndsmen and dogs on these units. Summer months density goes way down. We are overreacting to the problem. It is adequately addressed.

**Chad Utley:** You were saying this is a law enforcement issue. Does the rule make it easier to enforce?

**Darren DeBlois:** That was the concern. Our officers see people with dogs rigged but unless you follow them to the tree. This is primarily a non-resident issue. Incorporates fall restrictions with the restrictions in the spring. Revisiting the plan overall and the strategy.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Darren.

**Verland King:** It looks to me like you are simplifying it. I think it is a better deal.

**Bart Battista:** I disagree with Austin. I think we should have flexibility to restrict taking collared lions in certain units. It is a good rule and I support it.

**Austin Atkinson:** With the addition of the spot and stock season, any time you create a regulation where it only applies to certain units, if you have a hunter in the field and he has to question if it was a non-collared unit or not, it may be hard to identify if that cougar has a collar. Recommend not taking collars and leave it at that.

**Brayden Richmond:** Data showing it is not a high take.

**Tammy Pearson:** I would agree with what Austin and Brayden said. Most people would hesitate and not take something with a collar but you will have those instances where it is accidental.

**Bart Battista:** I know, but we're not saying that they will be penalized. We are giving the option to do that and go through this process anyways. A collared animal that is a nuisance can be removed through the depredation process. Education process.

**Brayden Richmond:** On the spot and stock, are they required to take the orientation course?

**Darren DeBlois:** No, we haven't required it. They have to turn the animal in.

**Brayden Richmond:** I don't want to require the course for the spot and stock but I do think there is an opportunity to help educate people.

**Darren DeBlois:** Philosophically, that is where I am. In most cases, this language allows the option.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any additional comments? Alright at this time I'd entertain a motion.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you. I appreciate that discussion. Comments regarding recommendation to refine how to solicit comments. Cougar regulations to be simplified. Opposition to limitations to hound hunting on La Sal, San Juan and Book Cliffs. Concerns on predators and factors affecting populations. Restrictions redundant with other regulations. Taking of collared cougars. Need to focus on pockets of impacts and support trapping of lions in certain incidents. Cougar impacts on deer and domestic sheep. Allow trapping in certain areas trying to reduce cougar population in a timely manner.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Kevin. So, we'll entertain a motion now. Motions to address changes. Then accept remainder of plan.

**01:15:40 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson seconded by Gene Boardman.

**MOTION: I move that we reject the restrictions to pursue Cougars on the San Juan, La Sal and Book Cliffs units and make them consistent with all other units. Motion passed 7-1 (Chad Utley against, no vote from Gene Boardman)**

**Brayden Richmond:** Any additional discussion?

**Tammy Pearson:** So is this a take tag or pursuit?

**Brayden Richmond:** This would be for the take. Predator management area.

**Darren DeBlois:** These units had a different season structure before. Do you want to go back to what it was last year or mirror the seasons across the state? That will potentially put dogs on the ground during limited entry elk seasons.

**Austin Atkinson:** Let me clarify my motion.

**Brayden Richmond:** People could be out pursuing during those seasons but that is a problem with bear hunters. It would be a very limited number out pursuing cougars.

**Austin Atkinson:** Do I need to restate that motion?

**Kevin Bunnell:** Motion is to reject the restricted pursuit on the San Juan, La Sal and Book Cliffs. Darren's question is if that is to reject those restrictions completely or a nuance to go back to what it was in previous years?

**Austin Atkinson:** I would say that it rejects all restrictions from the pursuit season to match regular pursuit season dates. Not restrict anything to end April 15<sup>th</sup> for the harvest objective or unlimited season.

**Kevin Bunnell:** So, the pursuits on those units would match all other units?

**Brayden Richmond:** Yeah, I think that's the easiest.

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** (lost internet connection)

**Brayden Richmond:** I guess we lost Gene. Chad?

**Chad Laub:** No.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Clarify reason for opposition.

**Chad Utley:** No, I'm good leaving it with a "no".

**Brayden Richmond:** Do we have any other motions?

The following motion was made by Craig Laub, seconded by Verland King.

**MOTION: I move to allow trapping as a legal method of take for Cougars by the general public on Predatory Management Program units. Motion failed 3-6 (Austin Atkinson, Bart Battista, Gene Boardman, Chad Utley, Dan Fletcher, and Sean Kelly opposed).**

**Austin Atkinson:** And just to confirm, this is recreational trapping. Are we making a motion for someone to look at that?

**Verland King:** It wouldn't be recreational, it would be furbearer.

**Darren DeBlois:** The division currently has the option to use government trappers or division personnel to trap. If you want to make it legal to trap cougars to the general public, it would be good to clarify what you are asking.

**Brayden Richmond:** Your intent is that it would be for the general public but if you could add that clarity.

**Craig Laub:** Yes, that is my idea.

**Brayden Richmond:** Can you restate that?

**Kevin Bunnell:** So Craig, let me tell you how I have it recorded. The motion is to allow trapping by legal method of take for cougars

**Craig Laub:** Yes, by regular trappers, not just government or DWR.

**Brayden Richmond:** By the general public.

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Verland King:** I second.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any discussion?

**Bart Battista:** So wasn't the original concern for sending it to furbearers being targeting high density cougar populations and not just in general units.

**Brayden Richmond:** Clarifying the motion.

**Bart Battista:** Concern earlier was regarding high density units and spot and stock would control populations. Now we are saying to let it be done on every unit?

**Brayden Richmond:** Its not that we would want to do it on every unit, we would allow it as another tool the division could use and they would determine units to put this on. Currently, it is not an option. Asking to open this up to use if they decide to.

**Craig Laub:** Yeah, I think its good.

**Chad Utley:** Open to the general public is too broad.

**Verland Kind:** We have these predator management areas now.

**Brayden Richmond:** Okay, so what if you allowed trapping as a legal method of take of cougars by the public on predator management units?

**Craig Laub:** I'm good with that.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** I'm good with that.

**Brayden Richmond:** I think that's some good clarification.

**Tammy Pearson:** I agree with that too. I think we need to have Kevin read that back.

**Brayden Richmond:** Let's have Kevin read it back to us.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Allowed trapping of the legal take of cougars by the public on predator management units.

**Austin Atkinson:** How does that look in comparison to neighboring states?

**Darren DeBlois:** I think Nevada still allows trapping. They are the only other western state where it is legal. We need to address the take of kittens. We can work on it depending on what the RAC wants to recommend.

**Tammy Pearson:** Kittens will be able to get out of traps set for cougars, aren't they?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, people catch adult cougars in traps.

**Tammy Pearson:** Right.

**Darren DeBlois:** They're not always able to get out of them.

**Brayden Richmond:** You still have to check your traps at a certain time to address that.

**Darren DeBlois:** You still have to comply with the trapping rule.

**Craig Laub:** Units trying to reduce cats anyways. Know people who have caught cougars who have had their paw taken off by a trap. They have been trapped before.

**Bart Battista:** No non-consumptive would support me voting for this. General consensus with the general population is that it is brutal and it will be a PR nightmare. I don't think it is the right thing to do.

**Darren DeBlois:** It could impact trapping more generally if this is something people are opposed to. There may be repercussions.

**Austin Atkinson:** I don't want to give any ammunition to anti-hunting groups or conservation groups. In favor of keeping predator hunting away from the ballot.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you.

**Verland King:** We've got to manage these cougars some way. What we are doing now is not working. The houndsmen and tags you are selling are not taking enough cougars.

**Brayden Richmond:** I think we've had good discussion on this. We have a motion and a second and it's time to call for a vote. Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** No

**Bart Battista:** No.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** No.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** No

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** No.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** No.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Motion fails 3-6. (Austin Atkinson, Bart Battista, Gene Boardman, Chad Utley, Dan Fletcher, and Sean Kelly against.)

**Brayden Richmond:** Any other motions?

The following motion was made by Chad Utley and seconded by Bart Battista. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Division's proposal as presented.**

**Brayden Richmond:** Austin?

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Gene?

**Gene Boardman:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Dan?

**Dan Fletcher:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Sean?

**Sean Kelly:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you.

**01:37:37**      **7) Beaver WMA Habitat Manager Plan (Informational)**  
**Gary Bezzant, SR Habitat Manager**

Presentations could be viewed at  
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

**Gary Bezzant:** Yes. I'm here if there are any questions or comments.

**01:37:51**      **Questions from RAC Members**

**Brayden Richmond:** Any questions

**Kevin Bunnell:** Gary sat here for two hours

**Brayden Richmond:** I live right next to these management areas. Grazing concerns. Are we going to come up with ways to deal with that better?

**Gary Bezzant:** I was never made aware there was any on there this last winter. Efforts to secure border better.

**Brayden Richmond:** This winter was better. This property sees it more than the other 3.

**Gary Bezzant:** Yeah, and I would agree with that. Long history of livestock trespassing. We will continue to do everything we can.

**Brayden Richmond:** We talked about that before.

**Tammy Pearson:** If that is private property, we have a fence out rule. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain and keep fences up.

**Brayden Richmond:** On this one Tammy, there are roads through it.

**Gary Bezzant:** Dealing with an individual that is unwilling to open those gates.

**Brayden Richmond:** I found a situation where the fence had been cut. It was intentional trespass.

**Tammy Pearson:** Totally agree. That is something that law enforcement can deal with.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Almost all places where we have chronic trespass, we always get the county sheriff involved.

**Tammy Pearson:** Yeah, they'd be the right one to call.

**Brayden Richmond:** We kind of got distracted on comments. Get back to questions.

**Gene Boardman:** Are there cattle guards or gates on those roads?

**Brayden Richmond:** Both.

**Gary Bezzant:** Both.

**Gene Boardman:** Probably have better luck with cattle guards because people won't close the gate.

**Gary Bezzant:** Yeah, that's a very good comment. Main roads on this property have cattle guards and gated are seasonal or closed all the time.

**Brayden Richmond:** Other questions? Appreciate presentation, very well done. Properties close to my home.

**Tammy Pearson:** I would agree while my mic is still on.

**Gary Bezzant:** Appreciate partnership.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any additional comments. Again, this isn't an action item.

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Bart Battista. Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we adjourn the SR RAC Meeting.**

**Austin Atkinson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart?

**Bart Battista:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig?

**Craig Laub:** Yes.

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland?

**Verland King:** Yes.

**08:47:45 Meeting adjourned.**

DRAFT

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 5, 2020  
SUMMARY**

**1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Dana Truman and passed 9/9.

**MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes.**

**2) FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 9/9.

**MOTION: To accept furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations as presented.**

**3) COUGAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed 6/4.

**MOTION: To accept the cougar recommendations and rule amendments as presented.**

6:30 Chairman Trisha Hedin called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

6:33 Approval of the Agenda

Dana Truman: Motion to approve

Kent Johnson: Second

Motion Passed (9/9)

6:35 Update from the past Wildlife Board Meeting by RAC Chairman

6:36 Regional Update

6:49 Furbearer and Bobcat Recommendations

6:49 Questions from the RAC

6:49 Kent Johnson: I had a question...

6:50 Darren DeBlois:

6:51 Dana Truman: Hi Darren, this is Dana...

6:53 Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

6:54 MOTION to approve recommendations by Kent Johnson

Second By Kirk Player

6:56 Cougar Recommendations and Amendments

6:59 Trisha Hedin: At this time we are going to take questions

7:00 Eric Luke: This is Eric, I have a question...

Darren DeBlois: There is a couple...

7:02 Dana Truman: Hi Darren, this is Dana...

7:04 Scoot Flannery: Darren I have a few questions

7:06 Roger Kerstetter:

7:07 Scoot Flannery: Thank you. So I've met with the...

7:10 Kent Johnson: I have a question...

7:12 Steven Duke: I've got one...

7:15 Dana Truman: Well, I have another question...

7:16 Scoot Flannery: Has it been a problem....

7:18 Darren Olson: So, this is Darren...

7:20 Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

7:20 Clarification or Comments

7:20 Scoot Flannery: So I have more comments...

7:22 Dana Truman: I guess I would make a comment...

7:23 Eric Luke: I would like to make a comment...

7:25 MOTION Scoot Flannery rejects the proposal to shorten the harvest objective seasons to what it was in 2019

Steven Duke seconded.

7:29 Failed 6/4

7:29 Kent Johnson: I would like to....

7:30 MOTION Eric Luke to accept the division's proposals as presented.

Kent Johnson: Seconded

7:31 Passed 6/4

7:33 Meeting adjourned

**Northeastern Regional Advisory  
Council Meeting August 7, 2020  
6:30 p.m.**

**Attendance**

**RAC MEMBERS**

Brett Prevedel – Chairman	Daniel Davis
Natasha Hadden	Ritchie Anderson
Dan Abeyta	Joe Arnold
Jeff Taniguchi	Mike Smith
Jaime Arrive	

**Division Personnel**

Miles Hanberg	Dax Mangus
Tonya Keiffer-Selby	Randall Thacker
Clint Sampson	Amy VandeVoort
Rose Fedelleck	Darren DeBloois

**00:00:01**

Chairman Brett Prevedel called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

**1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**

The following motion was made by Dan Abetya, seconded by Natasha Hadden. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approved the agenda as presented.**

**00:04:11 2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Dan Abeyta. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I moved that we approved the minutes as presented.**

### 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brett Prevedel

**00:05:57**     **Brett Prevedel:** Okay, if you remember, our last meeting was dealing with upland game, primarily. At the Wildlife Board, we had some some amendments to the walk-in rule, and some variances on some rules for prohibited species. Everything went through fairly quiet, with the exception of the air rifle, and the Wildlife Board moved to not approve the use of air rifles for upland game at this time and then everything else, the remainder of the upland game, and then the seasons were all approved as recommended by the Division. Did you have any other notes on that, Miles?

**Miles Hanberg;** No I don't.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, so with that we will move forward to the regional update, Miles?

**00:06:58**     **4) Miles Hanberg, Regional Update (Informational)** Okay, thank you chairman. It's been a busy summer for us with the Division of Wildlife, so far. Despite Covid-19, our field work moves on full steam ahead. So, there's a lot of things going on out there, but I want to provide, the RAC with a few updates that's been going on. First thing to talk about a little bit is our hunting license sales. The first day of our elk license sales had a bit of a rocky road this year. Essentially people get online and they're entered into a virtual waiting room. At that point they're entered into the system, as the system has capacity for. We estimated there were upwards of 20,000 to 30,000 people tried to access that system on the first day of the elk license sales and most of those people had multiple browsers open, trying to help their family and others get an elk tag. So, kind of overwhelmed our system, certainly the Division of Wildlife apologizes for any inconveniences that may have caused. Anyway, I think at the end of the day people were persistent, they were able to get through and be able to purchase an elk license. However, general season elk licenses sold out that day, in about eight hours. By the end of the day, general season elk license were sold out and the spike elk licenses sold out within eight days following that. Very high demand on our hunting permits this year. There was a little bit of a snafu and hopefully we can work those things out before next year. One of the reasons is Covid-19, certainly the license vendors were not selling permits this year, so everything was done online and there was a big rush on the first day to get that.

Another thing I'd report is our fishing license sales have increased dramatically this year. It's about a 20% increase on fishing license sales for residents. However, we're still down on non-resident sales, both for fishing and hunting, but overall, there's a slight growth in licensed sales overall, but a big jump in fishing and that's a trend that's going on across the west and probably across the country. Really, other states are reporting a very large increase on fishing license sales. This year's people really seem to be craving to get out and recreating the outdoors. That kind of spills over into law enforcement and our AIS program. Any day during the summer at Flaming Gorge seems like a holiday weekend with the amount of people up there recreating. And so across the state our AIS Program

has been very busy decontaminating and inspecting boats. There's been tens of thousands of boats inspected this year around the state, trying to prevent the spread of those aquatic invasive species, organisms into other waters. And so a lot of work and effort put into that this year.

Tonya Kiefer, outreach manager' is at the Fishing with the Fox event tonight. This is the final night of that event and essentially what's happened is, 600 fish were tagged and stocked into Moon Lake Reservoir, Matt Warner and Moose Pond and this event is an event sponsored by the local radio station, Fox 98.5. Those people that catch a tagged fish are able to bring those in to the DWR office and they're entered in for the drawing, which is going on tonight. So of those 600 fish, we had over half of those tags returned, I think it's like a 54 percent return rate on tagged fish. It's just really pretty dang high, so it's a very large event tonight with the amount of people that caught tags that are there for the drawing and the prizes. And so I think there's a fish that's worth several or a few thousand dollars at that event. It's been a very popular event this year and had a lot of good participation.

The other thing I'll mention, there's been an active wildfire burning in Daggett County, it's called the Richard Mountain fire. Part of that's burning in Wyoming, part of it in Utah. I think it's been around 7,000 acres. The firefighters have done an exceptional job protecting sage grouse habitat up on top of Goslin Mountain. We have lost a little bit of lower elevation sage grouse habitat but our habitat section is already working with the BLM fire folks on trying to develop some rehab plans for that fire, to get things back in good shape for our wildlife species that are up there. So that's good news that planning has already started but certainly it's a fire that did take out some habitat for sure.

Our habitat section has been busy with guzzler projects this summer. I've had a very aggressive guzzler program the last few years, these projects this year have been in partnership with the Forest Service on some guzzlers north of Vernal and then just recently completed some additional guzzler work in the Book Cliffs and partnership with the Mule Deer Foundation out there as well. So those are exciting projects that have been going on.

Lastly, as is the case with the last few years, we're having a busy bear incident year. We've had a few reports and just a few instances the last week or two with bears. Just to stress to people the importance of maintaining a clean camp, keeping garbage put away. Most all the time these bear incidents result of food being left out and garbage left out. With the dry year this year and the increased number of people out in the woods recreating, the conflicts are certainly high this year. And so we just encourage people to continue to be bear aware and really try to work hard to prevent those types of instances. So, yeah, it's been a busy summer, there's a lot of other things going on. These are a few highlights I'd like to share with the RAC tonight so with that I'll yield the time back over to the chairman and continue on with the meeting.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thanks Miles, next item on our agenda is the furbearer and bobcat harvest recommendations for 2020 and 2021. Darren, would you mind taking just a brief moment and just kind of summarize the changes that you're proposing?

**Darren DeBlois:** Sure, I'm sure everybody's had a chance to see the presentation. I think maybe the quick takeaway is we're making a recommendation because of where our biological parameters fall to reduce the permits available per person from five to four. and then we're shortening the season slightly at the beginning of the season in November and beginning it on November 25th through March 1<sup>st</sup>. and that's just right along with what the plan guidelines are, so that's kind of it in a nutshell.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you, questions from the RAC? Okay, if there are no questions, does anyone have any comments or want to bring up any topics related to the bobcats? I believe this the significant change is reducing the number of tags per available per individual from five to four and then also some minor season changes correct Darren?

**Darren DeBlois:** Sorry, I'm not quick on the mute button. Yes, that's right.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, so does anybody on the RAC have any input on the bobcat recommendations? Okay, if there are none, I will open it up for a motion.

**Miles Hanberg:** Chairman let me quickly summarize the public comments.

**Brett Prevedel:** Oh yeah.

**Miles Hanberg:** The comments we received were about 28% that opposed the proposal. I think some of those reasons why they didn't want to have the season shortened or didn't want the numbers cut. So that was really the primary reason there were a couple of comments that I think fundamentally probably disagreed with trapping bobcats. There were 20% neutral and 52% of the respondents actually supported the Division's recommendations so that's a summary of the public comments received electronically

**Brett Prevedel:** Thanks Miles, sorry about that keep me in line. Okay is there any discussion from the RAC? Okay I will, I will now open it for any motions. **00:20:55**

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented.**

**Natasha Hadden:** I'll make a motion to accept the bobcat recommendations as presented.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, we have a motion from Natasha, do we have a second?

**Richie Anderson:** Mr. Richie, I'll second that motion.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, roll call.

**Dan Abeyta:** Yes.

**Joe Arnold:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** Natasha made the motion, Richie seconded the motion.

**Mike Smith:** Yes.

**Daniel Davis:** Yes

**Jamie Arrive:** Yes

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, motion passes unanimously. We'll now move on to item six which is the cougar recommendations. And this one's had quite a bit more interest or comments. And I'd like to just bring up a few items, hopefully clarify the situation a little bit. Several of the comments were related to items we're not able to address at the RAC level tonight. There was new legislation by the Utah legislature last winter that directed the DWR to take action to reduce cougar numbers on units where the big game herd objective was below objective. So many of these changes as they involve predator management plans or areas go moving to predator management plan are already complete. And so as we got the comments and Miles, could maybe address this, they were kind of blurred between that issue and then the proposals that are on the table tonight for us to discuss, which are the permits the seasons and etc. I'd also like to bring up the fact that there seems to be a perception that when you increase the number of lion permits substantially the harvest therefore follows directly and I've asked Randall to talk about this, it's so dependent on weather and hunting conditions and remoteness of units. There's a lot of factors that go into lion harvest and just because there's more permits available does not necessarily mean that they're going to harvest as a relative amount of lions if the permits are doubled that you'll get double the permits and so Randall Thacker has agreed to talk about the units here and remember we had pretty high we, were harvest objective and we'd increase the numbers prior to this legislation fairly significantly. And so, with them with that then target permit numbers Randall's going to kind of address what the actual harvest was this year could you take that Randall.

**Randall Thacker:** Sure, we got on and looked at those, make sure, double check the harvest statistics. Even just today, to make sure these are up to date and one of them I know that we've had a lot of interest on in the past is the Book Cliffs, after the Book Cliffs hunt the quota is at 44 this year, a lot because of weather conditions. Those kinds too but our harvest currently to date is only at 22 so it's at half of the, the

objective to just give some other examples; the North Slope, the Summit, West Daggett which is on the North Slope in our region there. We've got the quota of 10, we're currently only harvested four of those on the Three Corners-North Summit unit up there too. We've got a, had a quota of 10 and we're at three at the harvest right now, south slope/Vernal/diamond/bonanza is the closest to reaching it, what came the closest to reaching objective. It had the quota of 424 with a total of 22 harvested. The South Slope/Yellowstone has a quota of 10 and is at six actually harvested. The Wasatch Mountains Avintaquin had an, it was an increase on that quota last year too, and it's up to 30, currently we've had the harvest of 13. So, yeah it just simply increasing the quota doesn't always result in an increased harvest there's a lot of factors that do come into play with, with weather and conditions and my personal opinion is it depends on the number of snowstorms we get on a Friday evening so that Saturday morning the houndsmen can get out and hunt and that seems to play a factor in it too. But there's a lot of their variables that do factor into, uh, to our harvest levels than just our quota we set.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank You Randall, also on the Book Cliffs just for interest we had a lot of discussion last year when we moved the permits and I believe it went from 29 to 41 and then it's been bumped up to 40-44 now and the harvest was relatively the same. It was, it was a harvest of 21, I believe a year ago with 29 tags and this year were kind of at the same harvest just because of all the other factors that come into play.

**Randall Thacker:** You're right, you're right, it's very similar and that kind of thing, so.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, should we talk about the comments at this point Miles?

**Darren DeBlois:** Could I make one comment, we're going to recommend an amendment to one of our recommendations, is that all right if I present that now and then maybe we could talk about comments?

**Brett Prevedel:** Yes, please do and also please address the multiple tag, the multiple tag opportunity.

**Darren DeBlois:** Okay

**Brett Prevedel:** Exactly how the mechanics of that would work

**Darren DeBlois:** Sure, all right, let me present my screen here. Everybody see that slide? So, what we're recommending, what we recommended in the original presentation for three units in the state Lasal, San Juan Mountains and Book Cliffs East, was that the season for lion hunting with dogs be closed from April 15th through

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's in the original proposal, after talking with the regional biologists a little further, we'd like to amend that to maintain the same closure except for people that have valid permits to hunt bears or pursue bears during the following season. So, spring bear, spring limited entry bear, fall limited entry, multi-season and pursuit seasons. So, if a person has any of those permits for those units they could, if they have a cougar permit harvest objective or pursuit tag they could hunt with dogs and hunt cougars during that, that time frame while the bear hunts are ongoing. And so, I'd be happy to answer any questions about that if people are confused by that please let me know, but the change here is that if you're in the field hunting bears, you could, you could also hunt lions at the same time. So, let's see, let me stop that and then on the two tags the way that it would work is there'd essentially be the opportunity to take two lions during what we call our fiscal year. So, from July 1st through June 30th of the following year a person could take up to two lions, they'd need some combination of two permits though, you can't take two lions with one permit. You'd have to have a permit for each lion you wanted to take. One of the things the director has already implemented and is already in effect is the spot and stalk season for this fall. It opened on the first of August and it will run through December 31st and a person can obtain one of those permits over the counter if you want to go buy one you cannot use dogs with that permit. It's a 30 dollar permit if you had that permit you could also purchase a second permit either it you could get one through the draw for a split unit for example or you could purchase a harvest objective permit and take a second lion with one of those permits. You could also take a second lion if you had two harvest objective permits and the unit was open and the probably the third combination would be if you drew a split season permit you could buy a harvest objective permit as well and hunt during the harvest objective portion of that unit or on a harvest objective unit so hope that's not too confusing but basically you could take up two lions if you have the proper proper valid permits and the time frame that that counts is from July to June the following year so once you've taken two during that time frame you'd be done hunting for that year. The reason there are a couple reasons we're recommending this one is as Randall pointed out a lot of these units where we have quotas set and we're not seeing those units reach our management objective quota we'd like to see if people had the opportunity to say take a second lion they have this the skill the equipment the ability perhaps that could increase our success. The other unit that that we're hoping that will help on is a predator management unit where we're trying to reduce cougar densities fairly significantly over a short period of time. This is an opportunity for people who are in the field to take a second animal as well so that's the reason we're recommending it and that's how it'll work so other than that I think everybody's seen the presentation I'd be happy to answer any questions anyone has.

**Brett Prevedel:**

This is Brett speaking. When the harvest objective season is November to November, is the two lion season going to have complications when that season overlaps a valid permit?

**Darren DeBlois:** We'll need to just because of the way that our recommendation cycles are right now we had to sort of pick a time frame and that's what we decided to do. I'd like to see as we move forward and have some discussions about plan and timing that that we kind of get these seasons all aligned that they're running basically July to June each year but that's something we're going to have to do at a future date in the near future hopefully. So the way it would work is your permit would be good from November to November and typically what happens is that the harvest takes place during the winter time and so we kind of cut the year and a half in the middle of the summer and we felt like that'd be the best way to address harvest. For example, if a unit was still open as some units in in the region are and a person currently has the harvest objective permit they could they could go ahead and use that before the opening for hounds in November and take a lion and then if they wanted to purchase a second permit for after November. Second, they could take a second but that would be their two for the season basically so, we're going to keep track of that and hopefully we'll be able to readjust some things moving forward so those things are more aligned but that's kind of how we're tackling it right now.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you should we address the public comment there was a lot of interest in this topic and we received quite a few fairly lengthy comments well thought out. So, Miles would you take that.

**Miles Hanberg:** Sure, so overall, you know, sixteen percent of the people supported the proposal that was presented. Of course this, is before the amended proposal came out. 12 percent of people were neutral and then 72 percent actually opposed. So, to kind of summarize a little bit of why people opposed. Of course everyone on the RAC did have an opportunity to look at those comments. Some were about the harvest of cougars with collars, research project type cougars there were some comments about that both for and against. Some people were concerned about the loss of data and the cost of collaring a cougar. Others thought that you should take into account what the hunter harvest would be on these cougar populations and by harvesting collared cougars would give us an idea of that. Most people were kind of opposed to harvesting cougars with collars and two comments were received in that regard. You know, as Brett pointed out before, there were a number of comments that were somewhat opposed to and felt like there was too much harvest on cougars but that relates back to the House Bill 125 and the mandate given that the Division address cougars on some of these units in a predator management strategy. There were people that were certainly not wanting to see any more harvest on cougars. I would say there were some other comments that, you know, wanted to see the units managed as a split season strategy here locally. To balance it out there were some people that were were opposed to closing the pursuit season in the Book Cliffs, two cougars during the summer and spring months, and then lastly there were other people that were opposed to taking more than one lion. But with that being said there were actually two people that opposed the proposal that didn't feel like there was enough lion harvest in response to recovering deer populations and things like that. I would

say there's a couple of other people that responded that were I think fundamentally just opposed to lion hunting in general. Anyhow within the comments opposed there's a number of reasons why. I think a large number of those respondents just didn't want to see any more additional cougar harvest but that again relates back to what Brett talked about with the house bill 125 and that mandate as well. That's a rough summary of the comments and there was a lot to go through there so hopefully the RAC members did do that to really understand what people were talking about but, that's the synopsis.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you Miles and is it safe to after reading the all the comments safe to say that there's a lot of public opinion, on how you value deer versus lions, you know, whether they're equal on the landscape or whether the tool of managing lions, you know, is a valid way to increase deer herd so there was there's it's just people's values of which one they prefer I guess is that an accurate there was quite a few comments like that wasn't there.

**Miles Hanberg:** Yeah, certainly and we did have a number of local hounds men respond and they did make their voices heard. Through this comment platform so yeah, I think those some of those individuals really value hunting cougars and so they want to see a robust number of cougars to be able to go out and pursue and hunt.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you, should I open up the questions Darren or do you have any other input right now?

**Darren DeBlois:** No, I'm ready to answer any questions anybody has.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, um, questions from the RAC?

#### 00:34:34 Questions from RAC Members

**Dan Abeyta:** Yeah this, is Dan Abeyta: and I have a question. Maybe not so much for Darren but if there's somebody in this meeting right now from the Division that can talk about the decrease in the number of deer tags for this year for 2020? That'll kind of help me, kind of put things into perspective. I think a little bit because it's kind of indirectly related to what we're talking about but is there anybody on the call from the Division that can talk about what the number, kind of get what the number of the reduction in deer tags was for this year?

**Darren DeBlois:** I was going to say Dax or Randall if you're on, you might have a better kind of feel for the discussions that were surrounding that than, I would but I'd be happy to talk about sort of 30,000 foot predator prey stuff but if you want to address that, that can talk to a little bit and...

**Dax Mangus:** Dan, let me know if I am answering your question or discussing the things that that you're curious about. We did have some poor fawn survival and some units showed poor adult doe survival, experienced some declines in population numbers and when we looked at those data in the context of our buck-to-doe ratio objectives for the units. we plugged in you know, real-time the best survival data we had and then basically predicted you know, what kind of results we would have this fall based on you know, different levels of permit numbers and saw that in order to meet our buck to doe ratio objectives we needed to reduce permits for buck hunting. It's good to keep in mind that buck hunting, has less of a biological impact on a deer herd and buck hunting is driven by biological factors. Largely how you can hunt bucks is driven by biological factors so the biology drives buck hunting but buck hunting doesn't drive the biology. If that makes sense, you know, we only need a certain number of bucks to maintain, you know, to get our does pregnant and maintain a biologically viable herd. Some of those bucks are surplus, those the ones that we target with our, with our hunting but if we have low production you know, we have low fawn survival, low fawn to doe ratios. Declining deer populations then that affects the quantity of bucks that are available to hunters and so we adjust permits accordingly. So, I don't know maybe that's too broad again, but because we were seeing little fawn survival, low production, on some units, we recommended reductions and those reductions passed for buck hunting, buck permits in most of our units in the region for this fall.

**Dan Abeyta:** Yeah, okay, thanks Dax. Yeah, I just was as I was reviewing some of the public comments that were, those were some of the public comments that I read where people were asking those questions and so that's I just kind of wanted to get your take on that and that sounds familiar.

**Dax Mangus:** I saw one comment that said something to the effect of, you know, why doesn't the Division just cut buck permits and let us have more lions? I saw one comment that said something to that effect and I don't know that the logic behind that comment is totally sound. Like I said the biology drives what we can do with bucks but the bucks don't really drive biology. By cutting buck permits it doesn't necessarily increase productivity, it doesn't necessarily grow us more deer so, you know, buck management is different than population management. There is some overlap at some extreme ends of the window within which we try to manage bucks but just saying okay we're going to cut a bunch of buck tags. So, we can have more lions on the landscape, doesn't really balance out that way because productivity of the herds is not necessarily driven by bucks unless you get to a really, really low number or a really, really high number and the objectives that we manage for are really in the middle of a pretty broad range.

**Darren DeBlois:** Right ,when we're talking about predator prey relationships, Dan, our concern isn't so much how many bucks lions eat, it's those adult doe's and fawns that they may be removing from the population and that really drives whether

the population remains stagnant or grows and those are, those are things we're looking at when we're making decisions about, you know, what kind of strategies we have for predator management and that's what went into a lot of these decisions about what is in predator management plans this time around that data we've got some really good data on survival.

**Dan Abeyta:** All right, well yeah thank you for those responses.

**Brett Prevedel:** If I may, Jeff Taniguchi has joined us and I'd like to give him an opportunity to introduce himself as a RAC member and who he represents and he will be voting from this on this topic. Jeff, can you hear us? He was on the list, I believe he's joined us so we'll wait a moment to get this microphone set up or whatever the issue is. I'd entertain other, other questions from the RAC regarding the lion proposals.

**Daniel Davis:** Yeah, this is Daniel Davis, I've got a couple questions? so early on in the predator management plans that have lapped over the years, there a some strategic strategy put in place in conjunction with the methods of take be it harvest objective split and limited entry. um, a lot of that was driven towards shifting focus to priority areas, however, the way some of this lays out doesn't appear to be much of a focus and the reason I ask is when, when you have an area in the state like the Northeastern Region, where everything's primarily harvest objective it kind of doesn't force your pressure to your, your desired needs for what management agendas are on the table. So, is there any consideration to any of that taken with the recommendations that you guys have made for this year?

**Darren DeBlois:** There's a couple of things that changed Daniel, that actually impact the cougar management plan and we're going to need to actually go back into that plan and revisit it based on some of them because of the legislation requirements. It changed how we implement predator management plans. If you recall this spring, we brought around a new policy for predator management plans and what we did is we asked all of our district biologists to use the new policy and reevaluate everything on all their units even if they were currently under a predator management plan in the past especially for deer. We didn't change the requirements much for sheep and so those units pretty much stayed the same but we did really look at things for deer. One of the things that the new policy does is really empowers our district biologists to make those decisions and there's enough flexibility in it that they need to look at their data and then justify what their concerns are and so that was our approach for predator management plans. If you've got some specific units that you want some details on, we'd be happy to explain why maybe they had predator management implemented but the philosophy changed a little bit. We used to designate hunt strategies kind of based on whether predator numbers were having impacts and that sort of thinking in the plan. I would say kind of got preempted by the new approach to predator management plans and so now hunt strategies is probably

more of a preference for district and regional biologists based on what they see on the ground, what they think will be the best fit. Does that cover your question? I don't know if you got all the answers you needed we'd be happy to dive in if you need to.

**Daniel Davis:** No, understood completely on the new house bill and what accompanies a predator management plan. So more or less the units that aren't under a pmp or under objective for the other species in that unit that still maintain a harvest objective strategy when other units in that region do fall under the category for the other big game species to maintain predator management or a harvest objective strategy. So I was just kind of curious on some of the units where that maintain that status when it's easier to shift focus to the areas of need in non-relation to HB125

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I don't know do you have a specific unit you're thinking about that might help us.

**Daniel Davis:** Yes, I've got two as a matter of fact, and so the question being there was two units combined the Avintaquin and Currant Creek. The combination of those is something going through the RAC process or was that a directive in regards to the HB125.

**Darren DeBlois:** I'm double checking but Randall probably knows.

**Randall Thacker:** Let's see, so we combined Avintaquin, Currant Creek under predator management plan those were combined Derek, and those were combined because of the house bill. It was because the Currant Creek had been a straight limited entry unit and we were going to do away with that and rather than have just the Currant Creek be a separate unit that way and we've already had half of true Currant Creek unit as far as the subunit goes in attached to the Avintaquin anyway. Derek can comment on this if you'd like to but me, we just simply combined those two and left the objective what it already was on the Avintaquin one and combined the Current Creek portion north of highway 40. Added that in with the rest of the Currant Creek sub-unit and the Avintaquin unit together to create the same unit we use for bears. It's basically the same unit for deer basically the Wasatch Mountains east essentially now too and so it will kind of simplify that maybe reduce some confusion in the future.

**Derek:** Yeah Daniel this is Derek, Randall nailed that but just with it being such a small unit I was looking at it, you know, today if we just had the Currant Creek a harvest objective the way it's set up now it's like 10 miles wide in in places with large portions of tribal land private property. Looking at some of the collar data from these cougars and how big of an area they cover, it just didn't seem like that was a good idea and just to keep it simple try to keep our boundaries good and give a larger area for sportsmen to hunt cougars in. I think that was a big part of it .

**Daniel Davis:** So, that was one of the questions as is how they combined and when they combined because didn't see that come through the process I guess and then to the Vernal South Slope maintaining harvest objective.

**Darren DeBlois:** Are you curious why that isn't under predator management or, or...

**Daniel Davis:** Yes, exactly... or no predator management or a split strategy. One other

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I'll let the regional folks answer that

**Bret Prevedel:** Speaking of South Slope Vernal unit, Daniel?

**Daniel Davis:** That's, that's correct Brett.

**Clint Sampson:** Yes, okay Daniel this is Clint Sampson. You want to know why the Vernal unit isn't a split unit why it's harvest objective?

**Daniel Davis:** If you could just highlight why that maintained harvest objective in your recommendation?

**Clint Sampson:** I really don't know what to tell you. That's just how we've been operating and we haven't really seen a huge need to change it. I mean our female harvest isn't skyrocketing and we're kind of recovering from a rougher year with our deer herd and so we felt like it could continue to operate as it is.

**Randall Thacker:** It also helps address on that unit, Daniel this is Randall Thacker. It can help address some of the problems with a lot of the private land on Diamond Mountain and some of the issues that come up there. That unit actually could have gone to split. It meets the definition of the new guidelines for sure. To go under predator management there and we would have had an unlimited quota on there but we kind of felt on the Vernal that it was close enough to meeting the criteria. We could leave that as a regular harvest objective unit and not have to go into a predator management situation and leave that where it didn't see the need being that demanding there and so we kept that the way it's been

**Dax Mangus:** I'll maybe add one other thing as well this is Dax. In this region we've seen that we are coming more close to hitting our harvest objective. When we manage units as a straight harvest objective rather than as a split. When we manage to use split units we usually don't harvest as many cougars. One of the other things that really could be helpful as well with having to harvest objective season you have that longer season and when you have issues on with private lands that were mentioned specifically on the Vernal. Dry Fork is one every single year we have multiple

incidents with lions coming down to Dry Fork and eating people's goats or pets. Often times landowners or their friends or family are able to purchase a harvest objective permit and harvest those lions rather than us having to send wildlife services in there or Division staff to go in and remove a lion. We would always rather that a sportsman have that opportunity to remove a lion than us have to go remove a lion. A lot of times, when we have that kind of that interface where we have deer habitat aka cougar habitat and private lands and housing, kind of that rural suburban interphase, harvest objective seems to be a good strategy for us to be able to have more flexibility to all sportsmen to address issues that come up.

**Daniel Davis:** Awesome thank you. I had one more question. It was a rule amendment that was is being proposed in regards to lion accompaniment. Could you explain age of harvest for lion, could you address that a little more in detail Darren what the objective is there?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I think the intent of the rule was always to prevent someone from taking a kitten or an adult accompanied by a kitten. We had language, about any cougar accompanied by an adult and my concern was if you've got older age kittens maybe a couple male cats with a female mother it's going to be difficult for a houndsman or a hunter to distinguish between those body sizes all the time. It just seemed like a requirement was it was asking a little bit much from people that are out there so if it's accompanied by a kitten less than a year old that's usually fairly easy to tell and of course spots for very young kittens. We just removed the part about being accompanied by an adult and we have had some instances where a large year and a half old kitten was taken. We just felt like that that was putting people in a tough spot especially if they're not side by side so that's kind of the thinking behind that one, Daniel.

**Daniel Davis:** So, it was it was more relation to body size and identification is that the thought process into more of the spot and stalk reality versus the pursuit and tracking method.

**Darren DeBlois:** I think it's a little bit of both. We haven't had this spot and stalk opportunity yet but certainly if you see an unspotted lion from a distance it makes it more difficult to determine the age. If there's two together they could be littermates. In that case, neither one is accompanied by an adult but it just wasn't clean. If you're talking about writing someone a citation if it's a lion with some much smaller young of the year that's a little bit easier to tell and even guys that have them in trees. Guys that chase a lot of lions know the difference. For all intents and purposes a year and a half old lion look looks pretty big in a tree to some people so that was the thinking.

**Daniel Davis:** So if it would clear things up a little bit more to remove an age reference more to markings and appearance of identification. That way realistically

could a Division employee age a lion at check-in or would you come after me after a tooth sample.

**Darren DeBloois:** We would look at teeth but, you know, if it doesn't have spots on it Daniel we're not going to pursue that unless it's obviously a yearling. We might take a look at it the question is going to be; would a reasonable person know that this is not an older an older sub-adult cat?

**Daniel Davis:** Sure and the reason I asked that question is because it was brought up in part of the comment period and some worries about orphaning the young and orphaning them and those types of things and easier to address more on, not an age and get away from the age classification.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah I hear you. I think you know, from the orphaning standpoint once those kittens are around a year old they've got a pretty good chance of surviving on their own. Prior to that when the body size is significantly less than an adult female the chance are less so, so that's what we're asking people to evaluate in the field. We could change up some stuff in the education portion to emphasize that as well.

**Daniel Davis:** One last question if I may Mr. Chair,

**Brett Prevedel:** Yeah, proceed.

**Daniel Davis:** On population objectives that the Division's taking into consideration for predator management, there's been a lot of stuff going around the state and work groups and identifying some of these limiting factors. It calls out H.B.125 that if predators aren't perceived as being the limiting factor, but yes I understand helping to rebound some of those populations. It's also been identified that some of the population objectives for the big game animals are not all that realistic. In some cases, a lot of its social driven. What kind of a cycle are we going to see where those populations and assessments come into play, a little more accurately?

**Dax Mangus:** All right, I can maybe speak to this one Daniel, or you can Darren.

**Darren DeBloois:** Sorry, I don't mean to jump back. I think, no, you're good. I was just going to mention you guys are in the middle of it so go ahead.

**Dax Mangus:** Some of the really neat things we've learned from the deer study and the cougar study and the neonate study we're doing in the Book Cliffs and in units all across the state is, I think it's helping us get a better idea of what carrying capacity is on some of these units. And carrying capacity is complex and it varies year to year. If you have a really bad drought year, followed by a bad winter, your carrying capacity is a lot lower than, than if you have a really wet summer and a mild winter.

So, carrying capacity is not a static number, it's something that fluctuates, but generally by looking at the condition of the deer, we have deer in hand every year on a lot of units across the state and we strategically chose those units. So, even though we don't have them on every single unit we have deer on units that can be surrogates for each other that are really similar. Where we can get a pretty good idea on maybe some surrounding units from one unit but by looking at those deer and their body condition the body fat percentages the ultrasound looking at loin thickness. I think we're closing in; we're narrowing our knowledge gap there. When it comes to looking at our population objectives the vaginal implant transmitter study for the neonates in the Book Cliffs showed us a lot about fawn and calf production and the role that predators might play in those circumstances, as well as habitat.

The number of animals is density dependent and so I think we're taking that information into consideration. Looking back at historic population objectives and then looking at that in light of current, current data and body condition scores and ingesta free body fat percentages of animals we will see recommended revisions to our population objectives for most of the units based on a combination of historical data then current data, looking at animal conditions and that'll be coming around this fall with the with the buck bull once in a lifetime season dates and hunt boundary recommendations that go through this fall. So, we are looking at that and you know. Daniel, I know you spent a lot of time in the Book Cliffs. That's one we're looking at a lot and you'll see a recommended reduction in the population objective for deer in the Book Cliffs, because the numbers that we have there. Historically the objective was 15,000 when we compare that to the state of our deer. What we're seeing in body condition it's going to change and another thing to keep in mind too.

I said carrying capacity is something that changes and moves and our population objectives need to be that way as well. If we end up with some giant fire somewhere this is one of those years where we're having some of those big fires. Some of those fires might do a lot of damage and damage winter ranges and we'll have to adjust carrying capacity or sorry, we'll have to adjust population objectives down. If we have fires in the right elevation bands it might be really beneficial and there might be circumstances where we would follow up after a few years after a fire, seeing what happens and recommend an increase in objectives. These are fluid numbers that we're working with but we're trying to do the best we can and you will see some recommended adjustments coming soon.

**Darren DeBlois:** From the predator side, knowing what you're carrying capacity for your prey animals is key. The closer you are to that capacity for the landscape, the less effective predator reductions are going to be. So, because some other cause of mortality will take over either environmental conditions or something like that. So, it's important as we're considering predator management plans, that we're aware of what, what those prey populations should be relative to what the landscape can support.

**Daniel Davis:** Most definitely, and thank you. Yeah, it was a curiosity question. Being involved with the Book Cliffs working group, as Dax mentioned and Miles is giving updates on. It's not an easy task, it's varying, cumbersome and involves a lot of parties. So, I was just wondering if the Division is going to take an approach more at it direct units in those type of situations like the Book Cliffs, and or if it's kind of region by region basis so, thank you.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thanks, Daniel, other questions from the RAC?

**Jeff Taniguchi:** This is Jeff Taniguchi. Sorry for being a little bit tardy but I've made it. I represent the sportsman and I just like to make a comment that the last little bit that was spoken made a lot of sense to me and the fact that you can adjust and with that adjustment I feel pretty good about the proposal so just a comment, thank you.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thanks Jeff and Miles. I mean it's been said a few times but we know that the population objectives now that they're in the legislation, saying it's based on the population objectives. We've known that they need some attention especially when we're working through the Book Cliff's population objectives, otherwise it takes away your flexibility of what you can do on the lion harvest. Is that correct Miles, with the large population objective as it is out there now?

**Miles Hanberg:** Sure, the House Bill definitely does relate to what the population objective is and where the population is in relation to that. Just an update, our range trend crew, it's a crew that goes around each region every five years. They're in the northeast region this year and a lot of those range trend sites are located on winter range areas. There are some on summer ranges but they look at our deer habitat each year to look at the trends to determine how our habitat's doing. There is an index that they generate as well, this talks about how healthy it is and so we really look at that to determine are any of our winter ranges getting overused. What happens after that five year rotation the year following, that's when in this region we'll be updating all those unit management plans for mule deer. We will have that new data plus the historical data to look at and be able to make those adjustments. Certainly there's some other factors and information that we'll have coming in as well but next year we'll have some mule deer management plans for this region and that's where we'll look to make some suggest adjustments to those population objectives and the Book Cliffs. I would anticipate that's one where we'll probably make an adjustment to that population objective as well. The RAC will certainly have a chance to look at that I think in the next year.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you any other questions from the RAC.

**Richie Anderson:** This is Richie I just got a quick question. So remind me what the primary reason is for doing away with the use of hounds April 5th or from April

to November? What's the DWR's primary reason for that again? I've read over some stuff but I'm not real clear on what the primary objective is there.

**Darren DeBlois:** Okay, yeah, actually this ties back to some things we talked about with bears. You know there have been some concerns from land management agencies on the LaSal's specifically about the numbers of people that are in the field in the spring. And so we made some adjustments to the availability of pursuit permits. Specifically to non-residents on the LaSal's but we included the San Juan and the Book Cliffs because those are kind of our big three units for bear pursuit and hunting. Those are some of our densest populations. What they saw in the LaSal's this spring is that there are a lot of folks still coming from out of state, bringing dogs and hunting lions. Our enforcement officers are suspicious that that they're actually chasing bears. It's difficult to make an assessment as to what they're up to and so it kind of defeated the purpose of the changes we made to the bear season. They asked us if we could do something with the lion season to make it a little bit easier to know if someone's in a field with hounds it's clear what kind of permits they have. So, the proposal is, you can hunt lions but you've got to have some sort of bear permit to be there. The reason we include the Book Cliffs and the San Juan is again just anticipating some overflow. We may get a lot of people hitting those units because they can't go to the LaSal's. That's the rationale is it was driven by some requests from law enforcement down in the southeastern region and based on some of the concerns that they had this spring and this, is kind of the solution we came up with.

**Richie Anderson:** Okay, I guess my concern is, I understand the law enforcement. That's very difficult thing to pin down especially on the intent part of it. But if there's been no citations, if there's been no convictions, I'm a little bit worried about limiting opportunity based on speculation. I guess and you're probably right there's probably some of that occurring for sure but I don't know if it's the right approach to convict the innocent. We have a deal innocent till proven guilty. I'm just a little bit leery of that, I'd rather see the out of state hunters limited. I guess it's unfortunate that other states have done away with hound hunting but that's kind of their problem. Those houndsmen need to work within their state to get that changed. So, I don't want to convict people, you know, innocent until proven guilty. I think maybe we need to monitor that, wait another year and gather some more information and we kind of have to give the benefit of the doubt until we can prove it. That's just kind of my thought on there.

**Brett Prevedal:** Thanks, Richie and I think Darren's modified rule that he presented at the start of this section, kind of takes care of some of the non-resident concerns. Doesn't it Darren because they're limited anyway?

**Darren DeBlois:** Right, yeah so, for spring pursuit seasons there are unlimited permits available to residents over the counter. You could buy a pursuit permit for bears and go ahead and hunt. I'm sure there's some guys that are hunting lions in the

spring as well, but most of the time when that bear season opens up that's what they hunt. That is what those houndsmen are after and so this recommendation would limit nonresidents to the number of pursuit permits available for those units. It's a little more restrictive for summer because those three units are restricted, some are pursuit units. That would restrict houndsmen hunting lions on those units in the summer. We don't see a lot of harvest. I think on the three units over the last few years we've probably seen about half a dozen lions taken during the summer months. Dry ground pursuing is pretty tough for lions and so the thinking is that someone's chasing lions out that time of year they're probably actually after bears. They're just kind of gaming the system but again we need to make a case. This would probably make it a little easier for law enforcement to make a case if they couldn't be there unless they had the other permit. This is just our recommendation for dealing with some of those concerns.

**Jamie Arrive:** This is Jamie Arrive. Can you clarify are there other use of hounds during that period from April 15th to November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, currently if the unit was harvest objective its essentially open year round and a person could be there with the harvest objective permit and using dogs all year round unless there's some other restriction. On some of those units there's some no dog seasons in the fall for the San Juan and the LaSals during the limited entry elk hunt I believe. Thats the current state of things. This just kind of extends it earlier in the year and starts it at the spring rather than later in the fall Book Cliffs. You guys have to remind me, I don't think you have any special restrictions for lion hunting currently on the Book Cliffs, is that right?

**Clint Sampson:** Yes, that is correct.

**Jamie:** Is there, sorry this, is Jamie again, is there any concerns from people as far as running hounds during big game hunting seasons, specifically August through October, do you guys get that concern?

**Darren DeBlois:** We do occasionally get some concerns. They tend to be focused and concentrated on those three units. It seems like they're usually bear hunters or it's during bear seasons. We have made adjustment to bear seasons on those, on the Book Cliffs and those other two. In order to try and address some of that we try not to have hounds in the field during like for example archery hunts, but the lion seasons theoretically someone could still be there chasing lions. They don't do it much. Just because it's not really the optimal time to be a field chasing lion. That's factored into our decision on how to approach this this restriction. There are some people that hunt lions but not very many.

**Jamie Arrive:** Thank you

**Brett Prevedel:** Are there any other questions from the RAC? Yes, go ahead.

**Richie Anderson:** I'd just like to know from Daniel Davis kind of where the local housemen are on that restriction from April to November?

**Daniel Davis:** Yeah so, first off, I appreciate the Divisions approach to amending that first and foremost the state took a pretty big black eye over the bear restrictions on targeting the non-residents. Last thing we want to lose is support from our non-resident counterparts that raise traditionally and for generations running hounds and that's a tough deal to address. With the proposal that that Darren has made those units are heavily utilized both for mountain lion, for bear, all the big game species. There's a lot of a lot of activity on those units and for those time frames that they would address. It only takes those opportunities away in the fall and through the summer when it's a restricted pursuit when we're trying to limit those number of people already and that's already in place with the bear. So the recommendation with maintaining the opportunity to go while having a valid bear permit, it addresses that because when I'm on the unit. I'm there legal. It's during bear season and I cut a lion, why should I have to leave if I can pursue that lion and catch it and it's a lion of choice? I mean I do have the opportunity to harvest that, whereas in the original proposal I wouldn't even be able to pursue or take part in any of that I would just have to keep driving and let it go. But the new proposed I'm in support of that and so are the houndsmen at large and that's a lot of the comments that were brought forward as Miles mentioned were in address to that.

**Richie Anderson:** Okay, thank you.

**Brett Prevedel:** Dan Abeyta, did you have a comment?

**Dan Abeyta:** I did yeah this, is Dan Abeyta and this, is a question for Darren and you don't have to get too down into the weeds on this question. Darren, the other four regions, I'm sure there was a lot of discussion about this topic and the recommendations from the Division but after all the discussion what not how did they were they supportive of the proposal the recommendations from the state?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, three of the four RAC's approved it as presented with the amendments, Dan. southern region moved and it passed that we don't limit it in the summer on those units and those units actually mirror the rest of the state. So that it's a little different but three out of four voted as proposed, one difference so far.

**Dan Abeyta:** Okay, thank you Darren.

**Brett Prevedel:** Do you have any other questions from the RAC?

**Joe Arnold:** Yeah, this is Joe Arnold I have a question. You talked earlier about the statistics on the Diamond Mountain versus the Book Cliffs. As far as harvest any idea why that is successful? Diamond area sounded like 80- 90 versus, maybe 50 in the Book Cliffs. With increasing the quota but we're really not being more successful there any feedback there.

**Brett Prevedel:** I'll throw that for the region, Clint would you like to jump in on that?

**Clint Sampson:** Oh absolutely, you know, there's a lot of things Joe, that go into harvest in the Book Cliffs. Typically there's a lot of access depending on weather, things like that. A lot of the unit can get shut down but what we found in the past too is some guys are just happy to go pursue and not punch their tag as well. A lot of factors going into it and in the end if you look at our harvest over the last few years we have kind of jumped back and forth between split units and harvest objective and what I'm seeing as far as trends is that we usually kill around 30 on good years and then poor years we kill the high teens stuff like that lower 20s. It seems like it's pretty consistent on those numbers. So that's basically all I have to say.

**Joe Arnold:** Okay one other question maybe. This is Joe again on the spot and stalk. Is that going to overlap deer and elk seasons? Is that part of the idea that somebody could purchase one of those and if they had an encounter then they're able to take that animal during one of the open seasons, general deer general elk?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah that that's exactly the reason where the legislation asks the Division to provide that opportunity and so that's exactly what this is for. We will see how much success we see. Idaho has a similar opportunity you can buy a lion or bear tag and take it during those seasons as a resident and they see about a 20% incidental take. I suspect ours probably won't be quite that high but that may be somewhere in the neighborhood of what we might, might see.

**Joe Arnold:** Just a question maybe for Daniel and would that follow over into bears? I know Colorado has that as well, that you can hunt bears, you on a spot and stalk. Are the houndsmen worried about that because now they won't be able to pursue more animals because of spot and stalk versus the houndsmen?

**Daniel Davis:** I'm going to speak as Daniel. This subject gets thrown around between all your different groups and as a sportsman if you're a hardcore deer hunter hardcore elk hunter, whatever that may be, people do have their favorites. Anyways the focus for me is on biological management, the intended purpose of these hunts is to take female because a lot of the choices that tend to be made using hounds and trophy hunting just like deer and elk is to go after the larger males and preferably that nature. So, yes it's a concern for some as it is a drastic reduction or potential reduction in population, which is the objective. Bears are easier to see on the spot and stalk and

I don't feel that it's a viable comparison to Colorado because they have no other management tool. They outlawed the use of hounds on taking bears years ago and their bear population is a problem. What we see over there is your government hunters or your government employees are being paid to go shoot and leave those animals to waste. That is the last thing we want to see take place. We would rather have the opportunity to take in those animals and idolize those memorialize those in in our own each and every way just like, you know, your mule deer in the background rather than just getting shot left and wasted on the hillside. We would like to maintain that control with the sportsman and that's Daniel Davis' take on it.

**Randal Thacker:** Can I make one comment on that Mr. Chair. Just to make sure Joe are you aware of this. We have a spot and stalk bear hunt in the fall in this region already on all the units except basically the Book Cliffs down. The other units we've had a spot and stalk bear hunt in the fall that hunters could do the same thing for several years now and it's not a real high success hunt but we have had some successful folks' and it's created quite an opportunity for a lot of people

**Joe Arnold:** Okay yes thank you I was not aware of that.

**Brett Prevedel:** I guess my take on it, this is Brett, is you know how many lions have we seen when we're out elk and deer hunting over all the many years? It's just not a common occurrence and so I was laughing about it with Miles this week and then I saw one this week just out in the open in the daytime. It's because this meeting was coming up I guess. With bears maybe people know how to spot them but lions they're so difficult during hunting season to see anyway. I don't I don't think the numbers are going to change a whole lot if any other than just one or two lucky people like Randall said that happens to be in the right spot at the right time. Other comments from the RAC?

**Richie Anderson:** This is Richie. I've got just one more comment and something we're going to have to consider moving forward is you're probably were well aware that Colorado has an initiative on their ballot this November for the introduction of wolves on the west slope. That includes the northwest portion of Colorado. If that goes through I mean we're going to have wolves on our doorstep. I run cattle you know on the Utah - Colorado line. So I'm involved in an effort to defeat that initiative obviously but within a matter of time wolves are probably going to be here if that initiative passes. Wolves are going to be a factor in in this northeast region. I just don't think there's any way getting around it. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife are currently monitoring wolves on Cold Mountain which is just on the other side of Diamond Mountain there. I don't know how that's going to change the dynamics you know it it's going to change a lot of things and so I don't know how we deal with it but I'm afraid it's coming.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you, and I'm sure we will have to deal with that in its time and I don't know that it will impact the lion and bear discussions today. I think you're exactly right Richie, we will be dealing with it at some point. I'd like to move this on a little bit but I don't want to miss anybody's like questions so do we have any more questions.

**Daniel Davis:** One more Mr. Chair,

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, go ahead.

**Daniel Davis:** Is there any state rule about receiving payment as a reward if you will for a protected game in the state of Utah? I know and I'm aware of trophy contests or things of that nature not to exceed \$499.00 dollars for that type of stuff, but is there is there rule within the state preventing someone for receiving payment to take protected wildlife.

**Darren DeBlois:** That is probably a question for either Greg or Marty and they couldn't be here tonight and I told them oh we won't need you. Daniel I don't want to play a lawyer on T.V. I know that you know there are regulations in the state for guides and so they have to be registered. That's probably something we'd need to look into and have those guys weigh in on I'm not familiar with are you talking about like someone maybe you want to pay somebody to kill lions something like that with tags obviously but if you take like a bounty is that what you're thinking.

**Daniel Davis:** That's exactly what I'm thinking yes.

**Darren DeBlois:** Okay yeah, a good question. I can look into it and get back to you

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, if you get that answer and I can distribute it or just send it to the whole RAC if you would.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, I'll run it by those guys and, and email you.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, thank you. Any other questions? Okay, I will open it up to brief comments. If you want to head this discussion before we have motions in any certain direction, again fairly brief, this is the opportunity for RAC members to state their position.

**Daniel Davis:** Yeah, sure, why not, I'll go ahead and lead the charge since I've been talking the most I apologize.

**Brett Prevedel:** Go ahead.

**Daniel Davis:** So as stated, appreciate the amendment to the proposal about not closing down that summertime frame. Do understand the simplicity behind having the valid bear permit, but also do take into consideration the folks in southern Utah and in LaSals and some time frame here that some of the weather opportunities that are taken advantage of? To take those lions are during the wintertime a lot of time, they don't see snow they're without snow more than they are with snow. So that is limiting in a lot of ways by maintaining that so I would feel more comfortable to mirror this southern region's recommendation on that without restricting that. The other was a concern that that I had, that I addressed with my question, my last question. The perception with the two permits being made available there's already been talk and discussion about organizations and folks out there paying parties to go and harvest and actually receive compensation to take the game. They wouldn't take intendedly now view it as you may, some are pro predator some are anti predator but that raises a moral issue to me and really resonates hard on where that direction goes. It's a lot more prevalent to have one permit and take that animal as viewed as a respected animal a trophy and what we see is a moral code to hunting and why we're doing it and those are my areas of concern.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you, any other comments, from the RAC? Okay, if there are none, we can proceed with these items separately or we could take a motion if there's going to be a motion that dissects portions of this out. I would prefer to address them individually and then pass the bulk of the proposal at the end. So we've just had discussion about the two tag hunt and also I guess, we're talking about the season change as amended for the point of this discussion. As we move forward that was what was presented at the start of it, so when we talk about the seasons we're going to be referring to the amended proposal that Darren presented so is there any desire to take them items out or should we just go with motion and then maybe have an exception on the end or how does the RAC want to do that? Whoever's comfortable making motion I...?

**Daniel Davis:** I would ask the RAC to consider, Mr. Chair, to consider breaking some of these topics out that we've addressed tonight, independent.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, let's start with the two tag proposal and if there's any questions bring them up. But Darren I think explained that real well at the start. Basically they're one spot and stalk and one harvest objective or two harvest objectives tags. Primarily that's most of the combinations, you could have a split and then you would be successful and go buy a harvest objective but it doesn't change the split seasons much. It just gives you maybe opportunity, if you did have a split tag. So, I'll open it up to the RAC for a motion as we move forward that was what was presented at the start of it. So, when we talk about the seasons we're going to be referring to the amended proposal that Darren presented. Is there any desire to take them items out or should we just go with motion and then maybe have an exception

on the end, or how does the RAC want to do that? Whoever's comfortable making motion?

**Daniel Davis:** I, Mr. Chair, will make a motion this, is Daniel Davis, that we maintain one permit per person, per season.

**92:02 Brett Prevedel:** Okay, do we have a motion to basically, leave it as, as it is now where you're only eligible for one lion tag per season. Do we have a second?

**Dan Abeyta:** This, is Dan Abeyta and I will second that.

**Brett Prevedel:** We'll do a roll call and I'm going to call your name again. Dan Abeyta? Joe Arnold?

**Joe Arnold:** I need to ask one question if I can. Where are we currently as permits versus harvest before I can go with that proposal?

**Darren DeBlois:** It varies by unit but statewide there are 796 permits available. Last year we harvested just over 650 lions of about 800 that ballpark enough for you Joe?

**Joe Arnold:** Eighty percentage.

**Brett Prevedel:** But in this region the only unit that approached that would have been South Slope Vernal, right?

**Darren DeBlois:** Right yeah, it varies by region by unit.

**Randall Thacker:** Yes, that's correct, Brett.

**Brett Prevedel:** When we went over those numbers earlier we were and I'm not sure how the Nine Mile and the other units out there on the edge of our region fit in but we were just over 50 percent or just right around 50 percent with the exception of South Slope Vernal. Which was near quota, eighty ninety percent.

**Randall Thacker:** That's right, I think it's important to remember though too some of these quotas were increased quite significantly just last year or the year previous and so it's not like the Book Cliffs had gone up and then were increased by the Director and the emergency directive, that when he added those two, so that not all of them had this, had these high of objectives for a long term.

**Daniel Davis:** And so if they would have maintained would have been more around the 80 percent.

**Randall Thacker:** Would have been a lot closer, yep.

**Brett Prevedel:** Did that answer your question Joe?

**Joe Arnold:** Yes. Yeah, based upon that I, I'd have to oppose the amended amendment on that. We need to probably take more lions. As Daniel mentioned that we all have our own things that we're interested in so.

**Brett Prevedel:** On the motion to remain at one tag you're voting no, correct?

**95:01 Joe Arnold:** Correct, I would be in support of the second tag, especially if it's a spot and stalk.

**Brett Prevedel:** Thank you, I just wanted to make sure, I got it recorded correctly. Uh, Richie

**Richie Anderson:** No

**Natasha Hadden:** No

**Mike Smith:** No

**Daniel Davis:** Yes

**Jamie Arrive:** No

**Brett Prevedel:** Motion failed.

**Jeff Taniguchi:** Hold on, you missed me.

**Brett Prevedel:** Who'd I miss? Yeah, sorry about that.

**Jeff Taniguchi:** I'm voting yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** Voting yes? Okay motion fails three for and five against. I suppose we can leave that topic now and move forward if it's going to be included in the bulk of the proposal and move to the other topic. Did anyone have a desire to separate out the season Daniel spoke in the favor of it?

**Daniel Davis:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** You want to break it out from the overall agenda?

**Daniel Davis:** Mr. Chair, if I can take one step back to the last motion, where it kind of got busy in discussion there. Are we allowed to revisit that with a second motion, if it was different since there wasn't an amendment?

**Brett Prevedel:** Well, you're entitled to make another motion. The previous motion failed so, we're not dealing with the previous motion. But if you want to make a motion we can entertain that and it can still address that if you have a different take on that two tag issue?

**Daniel Davis:** I do and I feel these meetings are kind of unfortunate and so we miss some of that dialogue and I think to what Joe's referring to and I could agree with. The concerns I have are for buying multiple harvest objective permits utilizing hounds because the success rate is so high. I could get on board definitely with, having one spot and stalk accompanied by one harvest objective but not doubling those permits within the same method of take. Is that is that kind of what your concerns were, Joe you don't mind me asking?

**Joe Arnold:** Yes, my mind is a little bit two parted because, of course I'm passionate about the Book Cliffs and we're not meeting harvest objective in the Book Cliffs. We are only taking 20 to 30 lions and we have a quota of 44 and the deer herd struggling, the elk are struggling. All, everything's struggling and they're addressing that with you know horse gathering and cow gathering and all those things. But I still feel like if the biologists feel like there are more lions to take then I believe we need to take more lions in order to help. That's my stance on it now. Partly with what Richie's question was and yours maybe into the second part is I don't believe we should limit the houndsmen from going out there and training their dogs. If we're trying to take more lions so I'm a little bit confused on if we're wanting to take more lions, are we limiting the training of the dogs that help us take more lions? I can get on board with the spot and stalk versus harvest objective, I could get on board with that.

**Brett Prevedel:** So, let me ask you, Darren. Where part of this came down in the legislation, the spot and stalk issue, specifically, and then where this two tag idea is something we can deal with? There's, Daniel, asked if he could make the motion where the two tag be limited to only one harvest objective tag and one other type of tag I think, we've still got the split. Daniel, we got to deal with but it's a minority of the number. Is that something we can deal with as a RAC? Or when we get into these rules is that something we should better stay away from?

**Darren DeBlois:** No, if the RAC wanted to we would just need to do is define what permits a person could have in combination in order to take two so if we wanted to limit it to one spot and stalk and, and one harvest objective or split in combination but not to harvest objective that that's certainly something that we could address in a

rule and we just have to change the wording but, but that's certainly something the RAC could address if you want to is that what?

**Brett Prevedel:** You want to do that Daniel do you want to make that motion?

**Daniel Davis:** Yes, if I could please Mr. Chair, okay?

**Brett Prevedel:** Go ahead.

**Daniel Davis:** I'll make a motion that an individual can obtain up to two lions permits a season, but the two permit permits can't be of the same method.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay we have a motion to allow to permit as long as they are not the same type of permit and there's only the three types of permits in existence, right? The spot and stalk, the harvest objective and the split right? Okay so we have a motion to limit. We are saying people can't buy two harvest objective tags and go out there and shoot two lions either, a week apart or the same day. That's basically what we're saying with the motion so do we have a second?

**Joe Arnold:** Can I ask one quick question before a second? Randall and the officers is that a hard thing to then monitor and police versus I mean if the tag is purchased as a spot in stalk, it will that be hard thing to police as far as from the officer's standpoint? If they do take and buy one harvested objective and one spot and stalk how would that work Randall?

**Randall Thacker:** I think our officers can look that up almost instantly on their computer system that they keep with them in their truck all the time. They can look up and see what other tags the individual has purchased this year and the date of the purchase and that will matter too with some of these seasons. But, yeah, I think the officers could probably enforce that to just see which type of tags they are in possession of.

**Brett Prevedel:** And also the spot and stock season is a three month season, not a year round season that's connected. It's just the fall season basically for kind of during the big game hunts like we talked about earlier John

**Daniel Davis:** So, it's only an issue for three months and Joe, I appreciate you bringing this up because I sympathize a little bit because I've got family and friends that enjoy to go out with me through the winter and purchase a permit and if we're not garnered the opportunity you know I like the idea that they can have the opportunity to go participate in the spot and stalk while they're out during elk hunting and as the more this discussion took place I felt more comfortable bending to that direction because it makes it a more fair simplistic fashion and opportunity for people, thank you.

**Brett Prevedel:** So, we have a motion on the on the table to limit to two tags but they would be required to be two different type of tags not two harvest objective tags. You can't buy two spot and stalks right now anyway I don't think. Do we have a second?

**Joe Arnold:** One more quick question, I apologize Joe again, would they be able to track the statistics if they have to call a conservation officer after a spot stock tag and we'll be able to track the statistics of the spot in stock so we know exactly what the success rate is because I think that's important as you go forward.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, every lion has to be checked in either in an office or with a biologist or officer so we'll, we'll get to see every single one that's harvested and how when how and when on what permits.

**Joe Arnold:** Perfect I will second that motion that Daniel's put forth on one harvest objective and one spot in stalk

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay I'll call a vote Daniel?

**Daniel Davis:** Yes, sorry for the mute, yes.

**Dan Abeyta:** Yes

**Ritchie Anderson:** No

**Natasha Hadden:** No

**Mike Smith:** Yes

**Jamie Arrive:** No

**Jeff Taniguchi:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** A motion passes is five for, three against. Okay is there any desire to break out this season discussion or should we deal with the rest of the recommendation as proposed as amended proposed

**Daniel Davis:** I would like to make a motion, on the season amendment Mr. Chair.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, please do.

**Daniel Davis:** To leave it as it is and mirror the motion made by the southern region. Darren correct me if I'm wrong but the motion is to not limit hounding in the summer right?

**Darren DeBlois:** The southern region's recommendation was to have the same lion season on those three units as the rest of the state and that was what passed down there

**Brett Prevedel:** And that is currently the way it is.

**Darren DeBlois:** For Book Cliffs I believe so. For the San Juan and LaSal's that would allow lion hunting during the fall big game hunts .

**Brett Prevedel:** The LaSals was where we had the major conflict right two years ago.

**Darren DeBlois:** We currently have a restriction down there in the fall to eliminate hounds in the field during that time frame but correct me if I'm wrong guys but I don't think the Book Cliffs has that restriction it's just like the rest of the state for lions.

**Brett Prevedel:** Is that correct, Clint?

**Clint Sampson:** Yeah that's correct.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay. Daniel I was just making sure I understood what the motion was when we said same as southern region so the motion is to not limit hound hunting in the summer depending on what tag you have correct?

**Daniel Davis:** That's correct in a nutshell

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay I have a motion, on the table I will entertain a second.

**Richie Anderson:** This is Richie. Sorry I just need one correction from Darren so if this if this motion passed the restriction on the LaSalle's would stay in place?

**Darren DeBlois:** No, no, not, not the way I understand if it's going to be the same as the southern region it would not if you wanted to leave things as they currently are that would leave those yeah those restrictions down there but that's not how I understood the motion

**Richie Anderson:** Daniel do we need to correct the motion a little do we want to leave that on the restriction in place or what do you think?

**Daniel Davis:** The ideology behind this Richie is for everyone else the issue with the LaSalle's and where the multi-use comes into play is during bear season. It's a bigger issue with the bear hunting that takes place and draws in the non-residents. When we talk about lion hunting that's more of your residential folks that live in that area and live in that region and are out doing it with the intent of lion hunting. It's not

the issues that we see with bear now that comes from being in the field and the strategies that they're implemented

**Richie Anderson:** Okay I'll second the motion

**Natasha Hadden:** This is Natasha, could the motion be clarified I'm a little confused by the motion.

**Brett Prevedel:** Myself I don't know that I can clarify it because I'm still confused on what the southern region proposed and in relation to what is happening right now down on the LaSal's so I'm not sure.

**Daniel Davis:** I'll clear it up if that's okay

**Brett Prevedel:** Yeah make a shot at it so, go ahead

**Daniel Davis:** The motion is to not restrict lion hunting through the summer with a valid lion permit for that region.

**Brett Prevedel:** And the proposal was if they had a bear permit, they could hunt but not with just a lion permit right Darren?

**Darren DeBlois:** That's correct yeah

**Brett Prevedel:** The motion is if they have a valid lion permit do not restrict the season of hunt correct? That's how I understood it. Are you still good with your second on that Richie?

**Richie Anderson:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** I'll call a vote, Daniel

**Daniel Davis:** Yes.

**Dan Abeyta:** yes again yes

**Joe Arnold:** Yes

**Richie Anderson:** Yes.

**Joe Arnold:** This, is Joe I'm still a little bit confused on what it is so does it transfer over to the big game seasons I guess is one of my questions are we currently doing that are they are they allowed to pursue all year long as long as it's a harvest

objective in the Book Cliffs. Are they allowed to pursue all year long even in the big game seasons?

**Brett Prevedel:** in the Book Cliffs? But in the Book Cliffs and is it San Juan, no.

**Joe Arnold:** And, the problem with the reason they're putting this on there is because they feel like a lot of people were grabbing a lion harvest objective and or they had a bear permit I'm a little bit confused on and why the proposal from the DNR. What's our objective with the division with this proposal?

**Brett Prevedel:** They were buying a lion tag and then running bears too as training which we limited last year. They were actually training on bears that was the concern and I believe it's mostly non-resident because they couldn't get a bear pursuit because we limited them and so by buying a lion tag they could circumvent that the suspicion was they could circumvent that limitation. Are you prepared to vote, Joe?

**Joe Arnold:** What we're voting for is, is to keep it the same way it was that basically as long as you have a lion tagged you're good to go.

**Brett Prevedel:** It's actually going to either even open the LaSal and the San Juan up further they would take away the limitation during the big game season, on the San Juan and the LaSal

**Joe Arnold:** yeah, I would have to oppose that

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, Richie I have your vote, Natasha?

**Natasha Hadden:** So, did the southern region want that limitation during the big game hunting season?

**Darren DeBlois:** No, but they voted to remove the limitations on any of those three units for lion season.

**Natasha Hadden:** Okay, then I'll vote yes.

**Mike Smith:** No

**Jamie Arrive:** No

**Jeff Taniguchi:** No

**Brett Prevedel:** I believe it's four in favor and four no's. Is the process that I vote, Miles, is that how that works?

**Miles Hanberg:** Yes, that's where you'll be the tiebreaker.

**Brett Prevedel:** Yeah, okay, to tell you why I'm going to vote. I remember all our discussion and the 80 complaints that came in one season from the bow hunters on the LaSal and so I'm not too worried about it from a Book Cliffs perspective but as proposed I'm going to vote no to keep that limitation on the hounds in the LaSal's and San Juan so the motion fails 5-4 four for, five against. I haven't had much discussion about anything else specifically in the proposal or if there's another angle on this motion I would entertain that.

**Daniel Davis:** Before we go into the general remainder of the proposal I did have one more that I asked questions on for clarification from Darren and I'm prepared to make a motion if I could Mr. Chair,

**Brett Prevedel:** Yeah what was the topic that we're splitting out.

**Daniel Davis:** It was the rule amendment that was made about addressing age reference to lions.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, gotcha so go-ahead Daniel with your motion.

**Daniel Davis:** I make a motion that that we remove age from that rule and direct that rule more at markings and identification of body markings and it's that simple, that's my motion and I can give some clarification if you'd like.

**Brett Prevedel:** No, I think the discussion that you had was educational to us also I think we know what you're talking about. Do you understand what the motion is Darren?

**Darren DeBloois:** yeah I think so. I think we'll need to look at the definition of a kitten but I think if we remove a reference to less than a year old and just keep that with an animal with spots with visible spots that's probably what you're after right Daniel?

**Daniel Davis:** It is and emphasize reason being is to emphasize more on the check in process and address more of those types of take rather than focusing on whether he was a year old or a year and a half old.

**Darren DeBloois:** Okay yeah, I we can address that if that's your motive

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay is that something on that specifically?

**Darren DeBloois:** If you want something different than what the rule is proposed to say yeah so, I believe

**Brett Prevedel:** Does everybody understand the motion? The motion is we take out reference of age in the description of a legal lion to harvest and replace it with

description of the animal to indicate its age rather than rather than reference his age rather than saying an animal a year old or less which is which is pretty vague. We have that motion, do we have a second?

**Jeff Taniguchi:** I second it

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, roll call

**Dan Abeyta:** Yes.

**Richie Anderson:** Yes

**Natasha Hadden:** Yes

**Mike Smith:** Yes

**Jamie Arrive:** Yes.

**Jeff Taniguchi:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay motion passes unanimously thank you. I will entertain a motion on the remainder of the proposal

**Dan Abeyta:** Yeah this is Dan Abeyta and I will make a motion that we accept the remainder of the proposal as the Division presented here tonight

**Jamie Arrive:** Hey second. This, is Jamie Arrive, I second that.

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay thank you for all the really good discussion I think we get educated every time we have these meetings and Darren thank you for excellent job of answering all the questions and you'll get back to us on the one question where you're going to talk to legal counsel.

**Darren DeBlois:** I will yeah and I appreciate everybody's time thank you. Miles did you have anything else.

**Miles Hanberg:** I don't have anything else. Just again I appreciate everybody's time participating in the process and providing input and feedback. It's an important process for people to get their feedback and input into these kinds of decisions so thank you. I think we'll just need a motion to adjourn and that's all we'll need to do.

**02:01:16**      **MOTION: to adjourn the meeting.**

**Jeff Taniguchi:** Second

**Brett Prevedel:** Okay, uh, Daniel

**Dan Abeyta:** Yes, yes Dan Abeyta

**Joe Arnold:** Yes.

**Brett Prevedel:** Natasha this motion pretty serious I guess she left already.

**Mike Smith:** Yes

**Jamie Arrive:** Yes.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.**



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE

BRIAN STEED  
Executive Director

July 31, 2020

Dear Utah Wildlife Board:

Since 2001, the Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and many partnering agencies and organizations have prevented 20 species from needing to be federally listed as endangered or threatened. Many of those species were high priorities on Utah's Sensitive Species List.

Having a list of state-designated sensitive species makes it easier for the DNR and its conservation partners to:

- More efficiently manage the programs that affect wildlife species and their habitats.
- Develop and prioritize research and management projects.
- Qualify for specialized funding, which is available through the state's DNR Endangered Species Mitigation Fund, the Watershed Restoration Initiative and the national State Wildlife Grant Program.

Recently, DNR and its partners undertook efforts to review and update the list. This process began with a review and revision of the Utah Sensitive Species Rule, followed by the careful consideration of every wildlife species in Utah. On July 28, 2020, the proposed list was reviewed by the Wildlife Sensitive Species Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from DNR leadership and Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the list as proposed. I concur with that determination and now submit that list for confirmation and approval by the Wildlife Board.

The proposed list includes 119 species or subspecies, which is a 12% increase from the 106 species currently on the list. In total, 41 species or subspecies will be added, 27 will be removed and 76 will remain on the list. In addition, two species or subspecies will have their names updated.

We believe the State of Utah will see increased conservation benefits from this newly updated priority list. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Steed

Executive Director



**GARY R. HERBERT**  
*Governor*

**SPENCER J. COX**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**BRIAN C. STEED**  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

**MICHAEL D. FOWLKS**  
*Division Director*

August 13, 2020

Mike Fowlks, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources  
Byron Bateman, Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board  
Kevin Albrecht, Vice Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board  
Utah Wildlife Board Members

RE: 2020 Expo Permit Internal Audit – Rule R657-55

Dear Director Fowlks and Wildlife Board Members,

In accordance with Rule R657-55, an audit of the Expo Permit program has been conducted. This audit is attached for your review and the results will be presented at the Utah Wildlife Board Meeting on August 27, 2020.

If you have any questions please contact me at 801-538-7437.

Sincerely,

Kenny Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

## **Internal Audit of the 2020 Expo Permit Program**

Dated August 13, 2020

### **Background**

The Western Hunting and Conservation Expo was held in Salt Lake City from February 13 – 16, 2020. In accordance with Administrative Rule R657-55, an annual audit of the Expo permit program has been conducted. This audit was not performed using generally accepted auditing standards, but is an internal audit designed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Services Section to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual obligations.

This audit report covers the 2020 Expo performance specifically, and uses historical data from the outset of the Expo permit program for some comparative items, as well as to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual terms.

### **Overview**

As has been the case each year, the focus of this audit is to assist the Division and the Wildlife Board to ensure contract compliance. Our report focuses on verifying that data is protected and secure, and that the drawing procedure used is random for the permits being issued. Additionally, we reviewed data regarding the number of applicants, success rates, and programming code related to drawing procedures and issuance of permits. We reviewed revenue amounts retained by the contractor for use on Division-approved projects. We also reviewed the remainder of the revenue, which is to be used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives. In addition to verifying revenue totals, we look to verify that the funds designated for Division-approved projects, as well as the funds designated for other conservation initiatives, are kept separate from other funds in Federally insured bank accounts. Finally, we seek to verify that funds are appropriately spent on Division-approved projects, or are used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives, as required.

### **Review of handling personal and sensitive data**

The Division considers the handling of personal data and information a top priority. Because the contractor conducting the draw is allowed limited access to DWR data for populating the hunt applications, we require adherence to protocols that will safeguard this data.

The contractor has two process components regarding sensitive and confidential data from the applicants. For these purposes, sensitive and confidential data is defined as social security number, driver's license information, height, weight, gender, and hair/eye color.

The first process component is the handling of sensitive information given by applicants at the Expo to apply in the drawing manually. This is done on a paper form completed by the

applicant. Once completed and submitted, these forms are cross-shredded on site. No paper applications are retained by the contractor.

The second process component is the handling of electronic data that is used in the electronic application process. Certain data elements are used during the application process for customer lookups into the Division database. This data transmission is through a secure socket layer using 128 bit encryption. Once the customer information is retrieved, no sensitive information is stored in the contractor database. The contractor cannot retrieve SSN or DL from the database at any time, only enter it as needed.

The Division monitored the processes of data collection and input, securing of personal and confidential data received, and performance of the actual draw process. The contractor completed a third party system scan prior to the application period going live, and has provided a current Payment Card Industry (PCI) self-assessment questionnaire and attestation.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2020 for securing personal data. The PCI questionnaire and attestation were provided prior to applications going live, they were submitted initially on a previous version of the form and have since been updated to the current version.

### **Review of the drawing process**

Division of Wildlife/Department of Technology Services personnel go through an extensive review of the draw processes used by GraySky Technologies, the subcontractor selected by SFW to conduct the Expo permit drawing. The Division is represented by technical experts from the Utah Department of Technology Services, who reviewed the following:

- 1) The process of the draw is reviewed for its soundness.
- 2) The database structure is reviewed to make sure that a customer can't flood a certain hunt by making multiple entries for that hunt.
- 3) A review of the code is conducted to make sure that there is no chance that a seeded record could exist in the database prior to the assignment of random numbers. This is done to ensure that the result table is empty and no records can be inserted independently of the drawing code. This ensures that a record with an abnormally low random number isn't placed in the table thereby guaranteeing a permit to that record.
- 4) The code is reviewed to ensure that all records are treated equally in the process that assigns random numbers to the entries. Care is given to make sure that when the random numbers are being assigned, no records are identified to get a number other than a random number which is generated by the system.
- 5) The code is then reviewed for inserts that may occur after the drawing to make sure that a secured opportunity record is not placed in the result table after the assignment of random numbers takes place.

This was an exhaustive and thorough review; no compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2020.

### **Conducting the Draw**

The actual drawing was conducted at the Division Office in Salt Lake City on February 18, 2020. Attendees included Division and Department staff, representatives from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Mule Deer Foundation, some news media, and the general public. The public is welcome to attend the drawing and at least 7 individuals from the public were in attendance. The draw was then conducted by GraySky Technologies where the following occurred:

- 1) An impromptu passphrase was given to the GraySky representative and was witnessed as typed into the code prior to beginning the draw process. Later this same passphrase was verified by all in attendance to display on the result page to ensure the code reviewed by the Division was the actual code used during the draw.
- 2) The draw was then run assigning random numbers to applicants hunt choice entries and then sorted in descending order.
- 3) The results of the draw were printed and immediately given to a Division representative to ensure that there were no edits to the results table.
- 4) This list was then given to the Division Law Enforcement and Licensing sections to validate eligibility before any results were posted.
- 5) Beginning in 2019 applicants selected through the draw to receive multiple permits are contacted by the Division and asked to select a single permit. The unclaimed permits are then issued to alternates.

The passphrase was witnessed being added to the code, and the same passphrase was verified at the conclusion of the draw. Results were instantly printed and the process to validate successful applicants began immediately.

Ten applicants were informed of multiple species drawn and had to choose only one of the permits. There were no successful applicants who were ineligible for a permit.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2020.

### **Note about Random Drawings**

In any truly random drawing there always seems to be a few “lucky” individuals. Statistically when randomness is discussed it is always possible to view the final result and pick out certain trends. The key to these trends is that results cannot be predicted prior to the event or drawing. This is the very essence of randomness. Random is not an assurance that an event will be spread evenly across a population, or distributed equally among participants.

There were no abnormalities observed in the 2020 drawing.

### **Draw Related Information**

The Division reviewed data from the Expo regarding attendance, application numbers, and success rates. Applicant validation numbers showed that at least 10,000 individuals attended the Expo in 2020 as required by rule. The reported number of attendees at the 2020 Expo was 60,000 with a verified 17,945 unique applicants.

There were no attendance issues in 2020.

### **Applicant data for years 2007-2019 is as follows:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>	<b>Gross Revenue@ \$5 per app</b>
2007	10,527	205,462	163,054	42,408	\$1,027,310
2008	8,745	138,988	116,465	22,523	\$694,940
2009	9,927	169,988	139,748	29,375	\$845,970
2010	9,700	165,866	139,920	25,946	\$847,285
2011	12,154	196,360	170,539	25,821	\$981,800
2012	13,388	207,870	179,077	28,793	\$1,039,350
2013	14,043	197,312	173,192	24,120	\$986,560
2014	14,148	206,506	178,250	28,256	\$1,032,530
2015	14,910	228,530	192,420	36,110	\$1,142,650
2016	15,507	233,210	195,973	37,237	\$1,166,050
2017	16,127	247,148	204,016	43,132	\$1,235,740
2018	17,399	280,472	230,155	50,317	\$1,402,360
2019	17,320	292,785	232,143	60,642	\$1,463,925
2020	17,945	306,612	236,661	69,951	\$1,533,060

### **Resident versus Nonresident Success**

Data was reviewed comparing the number of resident applications to nonresident applications. In 2020, 77% of the applications were Utah residents who drew 155 permits or 77.5% of the total. 23% of applications were nonresidents who drew 45 permits or 22.5% of the total.

There were no anomalies in this data in 2020.

### **Draw Probability Statistics**

The Expo offers a limited number of permits annually and attracts exponentially more applicants who compete for them through a secure and random draw process. It should be noted that this dynamic implies a statistically low probability of obtaining a permit. While the draw odds are not a controllable variable or concern of the Division, we want to acknowledge the expediency with which this information is made available to the public.

### **License Sales**

The Division requires that anyone applying for a permit at the Expo have a valid hunting or combination license at the time of application. To ensure compliance, the computer programming will not allow applicants to apply without a valid license in the system. For the Expo in 2020, there were 1,149 combination and hunting licenses sold on site. The resulting license revenue generated for the Division was \$52,873.00. The entirety of these funds are owed to the Division with the same reporting stipulations as other third party license vendors; the invoice was paid promptly and in full.

There were no compliance issues with license sales, reporting, or payment in 2020.

### **Application Revenue**

For the 2020 expo permit draw, the Expo accepted applications from October 2019 through the end of the Expo, which was held from February 13 – 16, 2020. The draw processed 306,612 applications, generating \$1,533,060.00 in gross application revenue.

### **Use of Application Revenue for Division-Approved Wildlife Projects**

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for use on Division-approved projects is \$1.50 per application, or \$459,918.00 in 2020. This revenue was split 50/50 between SFW and MDF, with each organization receiving \$229,959.00. This initial deposit was verified in a federally insured bank account for both MDF and SFW. These funds will need to be spent on Division-approved projects, or transferred to the Division by August 1, 2022.

The Division tracks all funds spent on Division- approved projects or transferred to the Division to be able to report actual numbers each year. To meet the contractual obligation in 2020 all project revenue collected in 2018 must be spent or transferred to the division before August 1, 2020. The 2018 funds have been spent entirely as shown in the table below, with more project detail in attachment 1.

**Table 1 - Revenue and Expenditures Division-Approved Projects**

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2020	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$29,596.50	\$229,959.00	No Interest	\$259,555.50	\$133,020.00	\$126,535.50
SFW	\$101,236.31	\$229,959.00	\$281.11	\$331,476.42	\$117,098.25	\$214,378.17
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$130,832.81</i>	<i>\$459,918.00</i>	<i>\$281.11</i>	<i>\$591,031.92</i>	<i>\$250,118.25</i>	<i>\$340,913.67</i>

SFW

Carry Over Revenue for Division-Approved Projects	\$101,236.31
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects 2019	\$229,959.00
Interest	\$281.11
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$117,098.25)</u>

Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance \$214,378.17

MDF

Carry Over Revenue for Division-Approved Projects	\$29,596.50
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects 2019	\$229,959.00
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$133,020.00)</u>

Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance \$126,535.50

**Use of Application Revenue for Contractor-Approved Conservation Initiatives**

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for support of contractor-approved policies, programs, projects, and personnel that support conservation initiatives in Utah is \$3.50 per application, or \$1,073,142.00. Of these funds, \$378,536.00 were spent by SFW on expenses directly related to advertising expo permits, accepting expo permit applications, credit card fees, and conducting the actual expo permit draw, all in concert with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo. The remaining \$694,606.00 of these funds were split 50/50 between MDF and SFW, with each organization receiving \$347,303.00 Bank records and project expenditures were reviewed. To date, SFW has spent all of their 2018 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, they have \$31,106.89 remaining of 2019 revenue. MDF has spent all 2018 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, and has \$202,812.95 remaining of 2019 revenue. A list of these conservation initiatives for both groups can be found in Attachment 2. The deposit and required balance were verified in a federally-insured bank account held separate from other funds for both SFW and MDF. See attachment 2 for additional expenditure detail.

**Table 2 - Revenue and Expenditures Contractor-Approved Projects**

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2019	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$372,037.95	\$347,303.00	No Interest	\$719,340.95	\$169,225.00	\$550,115.95
SFW	\$210,714.74	\$347,303.00	\$1,076.56	\$559,094.30	\$179,607.85	\$379,486.45
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$582,752.69</i>	<i>\$694,606.00</i>	<i>\$1,076.56</i>	<i>\$1,278,435.25</i>	<i>\$348,832.85</i>	<i>\$929,602.40</i>

**SFW**

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$210,714.74
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2019	\$347,303.00
Interest	\$1076.56
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$179,607.85)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$379,486.45

MDF

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$372,037.95
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2019	\$347,303.00
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$169,255.00)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$550,115.95

Conclusions

The measures in place to ensure that data is secure and that any unauthorized external access is prevented served to safeguard information once again in 2020. With data being under constant threat, creating processes and systems that are up to the challenge of securing information remains critical. We believe that the measures set in place by SFW, MDF, and GraySky ensured data was properly secured. Our review of the programming code satisfied the Division that the drawing was conducted in a random, transparent, and consistent manner. Third party penetration scans were completed which enhance system security. PCI self-assessments were completed and signed prior to the application system going live, care should be taken to ensure these are on the most current PCI form.

Additional oversight and program requirements in recent years have increased the Expo's positive impact on the ground statewide. Project revenues for both Division-approved projects and contractor approved projects were verified by bank statements, and expenses were supported with the appropriate documentation. These process enhancements make reporting the balances and expenditures transparent.

Revenue from expo permit application fees has continued to fund numerous efforts that benefit wildlife habitat, wildlife species, and hunters in Utah. This funding is an important component of the conservation work that has improved our state's wildlife populations and made Utah an outstanding place to hunt.

We would like to thank Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and the Mule Deer Foundation for their time, prompt responses, and their willingness to provide the information requested for the preparation of the audit. Their information was clearly presented and very much appreciated. If there are questions regarding this report, please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Kenneth Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

cc: Michal Fowlks, Director  
Bryon Bateman, Board Chair  
Kevin Albrecht, Vice Chair  
Utah Wildlife Board Members

Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife  
Miles Moretti, Mule Deer Foundation

**Attachments:**

1. How Revenue has been spent Division-Approved Projects
2. How Revenue has been spent Contractor-Approved Projects
3. Draw Process Roll Sheet
4. Current Expo Rule R647-55

# Attachment 1

How revenue from each year has been spent  
 Division Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2018 Revenue \$ 210,354.00

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4103 La Sal/Elk Ridge Prescribed Burn Projects	2018	\$ 6,111.25
4128 Cedar City to Parowan I-15 Deer Fence and Double Cattle Guards Ph 2	2018	\$ 10,000.00
4129 Traverse Mountain Winter Range Improvement	2018	\$ 13,885.00
4202 Blue Peak Chain Harrow-PJ Chain Re-treat and Guzzler Install	2019	\$ 5,350.00
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019	\$ 25,000.00
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4856 South Slope Vegetation Restoration Phase 2	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4771 Emigrant Pass Phase 2	2020	\$ 15,000.00
4025 Home Ranch Bullhog	2020	\$ 16,381.07
4799 Rabbit Gulch Winter Range Improvement Phase II	2020	\$ 20,790.00
4812 Central Region Shrub Restoration Projects FY2020	2020	\$ 40,664.00
5034 FY20 DeerFawn/Adult Survival and Condition (continued in 2019)	2020	\$ 37,172.68
		<u>\$ 210,354.00</u>

**All 2018 Funds Expended**

2019 Revenue \$ 219,588.75

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

5034 FY20 DeerFawn/Adult Survival and Condition (continued from 2018)	2020	\$ 11,717.82
4734 Miller Creek Watershed Restoration 2.0	2020	\$ 30,000.00
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4836 South Bookcliffs Phase 7 (Nash)	2020	\$ 20,000.00
4860 Shingle Mill Phase 1	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4840 Cold Springs WMA Conifer Removal Aspen Regeneration Phase VI	2020	\$ 5,000.00
4882 La Sal/Abajo Prescribed Fire FY20	2020	\$ 10,000.00
5012 Mahogany Point Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement	2020	\$ 5,000.00
4777 Monroe Mountain Aspen Ecosystems Restoration Project Phase 4	2020	\$ 15,000.00
4993 Powell District Mud Springs phase II	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4818 Indian Peaks WMA Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project	2020	\$ 15,000.00
4625 Red Canyon Habitat Restoration Project Phase I	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4881 Cedar Mtn (Mormon Peak Phase I) Habitat Protection	2020	\$ 15,000.00
4815 Cedar Mountain (Durfee)	2020	\$ 15,000.00
4958 Sevy Bench Habitat Improvement Project	2020	\$ 20,000.00
4990 Parowan Front Braffits Creek (continued in 2020)	2020	\$ 17,870.93
		<u>\$ 219,588.75</u>

**All 2019 Funds Expended**

2020 Revenue \$ 229,959.00

Project Expenses with 2020 Funds

4990 Parowan Front Braffits Creek (continued from 2019)	2020	\$ 3,129.07
5122 Parley's Canyon Watershed Restoration Project	2021	\$ 2,000.00
5173 Paunsaugunt-Petrified Wash Wildlife Drinkers	2021	\$ 2,150.00
5175 Stansbury Mountains Watershed Restoration Project	2021	\$ 10,000.00
5179 Circle Springs Guzzler Replacement	2021	\$ 4,750.00
5262 East Willow BDAs and Guzzlers	2021	\$ 10,000.00
5279 Central Region Shrub Restoration Project FY 2021	2021	\$ 44,620.00
5324 Northern Region Browse and Water Enhancements	2021	\$ 15,000.00
5330 Marshall Draw WMA Spring Developments	2021	\$ 10,500.00
5406 Utah Wildlife Migration Initiative	2021	\$ 1,274.43
		<u>\$ 103,423.50</u>

Remaining Balance \$ 126,535.50

How revenue from each year has been spent  
 Division Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

2018 Revenue	\$ 210,354.00
2018 interest Revenue	\$ 180.03
Total	\$ 210,534.03

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$ 5,414.80
4565 Ogden Bay WMA Upland habitat shrub complex II	2019	\$ 17,000.00
4566 Harold Crane WMA South pond project	2019	\$ 112,500.00
4611 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase V	2019	\$ 25,439.09
4623 Ogden Bay WMA water control structures installation	2019	\$ 50,000.00
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$180.14
		<u>\$ 210,534.03</u>

**All 2018 Funds Expended**

2019 Revenue	\$ 219,588.75
2019 interest Revenue	\$ 207.61
Total	\$ 219,796.36

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

4854 Ogden Bay WMA East Dike Restoration	2020	\$ 34,000.00
4877 Upland Habitat Enhancement and Vegetation Management Salt Creek WMA FY20	2020	\$5,000.00
4894 Phragmites and Invasive Weed Control FY20	2020	\$5,000.00
5101 FY20 CA Quail Trap and Transplant	2020	\$6,500.00
4881 Cedar Mtn (Mormon Peak Phase I) Habitat Protection	2020	\$10,000.00
4815 Cedar Mountain (Durfee)	2020	\$10,000.00
5064 Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area	2020	\$9,250.00
4553 Salt Creek Channel Cleaning Island Restoration	2020	\$23,625.00
4840 Cold Springs WMA Conifer Removal Aspen Regeneration Phase VI	2020	\$10,000.00
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$9,819.86
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$ 5,000.00
4975 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase VI	2020	\$24,051.00
4934 Southeastern Upland Game Guzzler Phase III	2020	\$1,500.00
4799 Rabbit Gulch Winter Range Improvement Phase II	2020	\$20,790.00
4846 Raft River Aspen Restoration Project Phase I	2020	\$5,000.00
5030 FY20 Bighorn Sheep Captures	2020	\$19,531.50
5169 Predator Management Funding for Cache and box Elder Deer Units	2020	\$20,729.00
		<u>\$ 219,796.36</u>

**All 2019 Funds Expended**

2020 Revenue	\$ 229,959.00
2020 interest Revenue	\$ 281.11
Total	\$ 230,240.11

Project Expenses with 2020 Funds

5169 Predator Management Funding for Cache and box Elder Deer Units	2020	\$4,271.00
5456 SLO Waterfowl Program Airboat	2020	\$11,590.94
		<u>\$15,861.94</u>

Remaining Balance	\$ 214,378.17
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# Attachment 2

# How revenue from each year has been spent

## Contractor Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2018 Revenue \$ 344,467.50

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4709 Utah Youth Hunter Education Challenge - FY18	2018	\$	2,500.00
3823 MDF Stewardship Position FY17	2018	\$	30,000.00
4719 Utah Youth Hunter Education Challenge - FY19	2019	\$	3,500.00
5021 MDF Stewardship Position FY19	2019	\$	30,000.00
Panels and trimming for Guzzlers	2018	\$	2,085.85
Guzzler WRI Project	2018	\$	5,274.49
Sponsorship of Big Game Awards	2019	\$	6,500.00
Sponsorship of Congressional Sportmans Fund	2019	\$	5,000.00
Water Restoration Video	2019	\$	5,000.00
Materials for Guzzlers in Manti	2019	\$	30,879.96
Seedlings for WMA's	2019	\$	11,912.50
Printing for Youth Programs, Mule Deer magazine, Mule Deer Retrospective	2019	\$	28,310.87
Registration for Big Game Summit, Utah All Lands All Hands Summit, WAFWA	2019	\$	12,500.00
4846 Raft River Aspen Restoration Project Phase I	2020	\$	15,000.00
4814 Three Canyons Deer Winter Range Habitat Treatment -phase 2	2020	\$	16,278.93
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$	25,000.00
4819 Burnt-Beaver Phase II	2020	\$	100,000.00
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$	10,000.00
Sponsorship of NASP Coordinator Conference	2020	\$	750.00
Sponsorship of Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Summer Meeting	2020	\$	2,500.00
Burnt Beaver Thinning Project on North Slope of Unitahs	2020	\$	1,474.90
			<u>\$ 344,467.50</u>

**All 2018 Funds Expended**

2019 Revenue \$ 351,033.82

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

Sponsorship of Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mid Winter Meetir	2020	\$	15,000.00
Burnt Beaver Thinning Project on North Slope of Unitahs	2020	\$	133,220.87
			<u>\$ 148,220.87</u>

Remaining Balance 2019 \$ 202,812.95

2020 Revenue \$ 347,303.00

Remaining Balance 2020 \$ 347,303.00

Total Remaining Balance \$ 550,115.95
---------------------------------------

How revenue from each year has been spent  
**Contractor Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife**

2018 Revenue \$ 344,467.50  
 2018 Interest Revenue \$ 368.07  
 Total \$ 344,835.57

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4416 California Quail Transplant FY18	2018 \$	9,741.97
4479 Salt Creek WMA Water Share Purchase	2018 \$	12,500.00
4725 California Quail Transplant FY19	2018 \$	10,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2018 \$	751.81
4707 OBWMA Kubota RTV	2018 \$	3,375.00
4560 Ogden Bay WMA upland/wetland enhancement project	2019 \$	6,000.00
4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019 \$	2,585.09
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019 \$	25,000.00
4713 Pahvant WMA water purchase	2019 \$	10,000.00
4722 Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area UTV	2019 \$	3,750.00
4723 Farmington Bay Waterfowl Area UTV	2019 \$	3,750.00
4724 MarshMasters for phragmites control on Great Salt Lake waterfowl mgmt areas	2019 \$	131,250.00
4553 Salt Creek Channel Cleaning island restoration	2019 \$	17,500.00
Wheeler Machinery Bulldozer Rental for Cache Projects	2019 \$	108,631.70
		<u>\$ 344,835.57</u>

**All 2018 Funds Expended**

2019 Revenue \$ 351,033.82  
 2019 Interest Revenue \$ 851.14  
 Total \$ 351,884.96

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

S. Sorensen Cache Predator Control for Fawn Study	2019 \$	5,700.00
Pheasant chick projects - chicks, construction, feed, heaters	2019 \$	20,595.22
Wheeler Machinery Trackloader	2019 \$	64,500.00
4958 Sevy Bench Habitat Improvement Project	2020 \$	20,000.00
4852 Ogden Bay WMA upland/wetland enhancement project FY20	2020 \$	6,875.00
4853 Harold Crane WMA South pond project PHASE 2	2020 \$	20,000.00
4980 Howard Slough WMA secondary road gravel project	2020 \$	6,000.00
4799 Rabbit Gulch Winter Range Improvement Phase II	2020 \$	5,000.00
Pheasant Hunt for Wheelchair Bound Hunters	2020 \$	1,350.00
Urban Fishery Pond Reconstruction in Juab County	2020 \$	25,000.00
Taos Pueblo Bighorn Sheep Transplant Sample Transport	2020 \$	1,717.50
Trap Throwers for Youth Shooting Program in Sevier County	2020 \$	11,465.00
Upland Game Program -purchase chicks and supplies for public land release	2020 \$	47,667.38
Youth Pheasant Hunt on Pahvant Management Unit	2020 \$	19,375.00
Chukar Purchase for release on Public Land	2020 \$	11,400.00
Predator Control in Cache County	2020 \$	7,850.00
Ogden Bay Upland Game Habitat Enhancement	2020 \$	10,615.00
Ogden Bay WMA Improvement Project	2020 \$	11,917.97
5349 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase VII	2021	23,750.00
		<u>\$ 320,778.07</u>

Remaining Balance 2019 \$ 31,106.89

2020 Revenue \$ 347,303.00  
 2020 Interest Revenue \$ 1,076.56  
 Remaining Balance 2020 \$ 348,379.56

Remaining Balance \$ 379,486.45
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# Attachment 3



On Tuesday, February 18, 2020 the electronic random drawing for the 200 Expo permits will take place at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. These permits were awarded to the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo by the Utah Wildlife Board.

The following are witnesses of the drawing and were present during the entire process. Once the successful applicants have been drawn, all names will be given to Division of Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement. The names will be checked for any compact violations and will be deemed eligible by the Division of Wildlife and the successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Start Time: 10:21 am

End Time: 10:27 am

PASSCODE Wildlife elevated

Print Name	Signature	Date
<u>Lindy Varney (DWR)</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Chris Carling (Expo)</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Debbie Marchese</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Miles Moretti</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2-18-2020</u>
<u>Brian Fieuhold</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Jacob Purfey</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Russ BARNES</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2/18/2020</u>
<u>Adam Eakle</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2-18-20</u>
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>2-18-20</u>

← BRENT WEISER



# Attachment 4

**R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

**R657-55. Wildlife Expo Permits.**

**R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife expo permits.

(2) Wildlife expo permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting and supporting a regional or national wildlife exposition in Utah.

(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at an exposition held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife expo permits.

(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife expo permits per year to a qualified conservation organization.

**R657-55-2. Definitions.**

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conservation organization" means a 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit chartered institution, corporation, foundation, or association founded for the purpose of promoting wildlife conservation.

(b) "Special nonresident expo permit" means one wildlife expo permit for each once-in-a-lifetime species that is only available to a nonresident hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah.

(c) "Wildlife exposition" means a multi-day event held within the state of Utah that is sponsored by one or more wildlife conservation organizations, acting through a single conservation organization, as their national or regional convention or event that is open to the general public and designed to draw nationwide attendance of more than 10,000 individuals. The wildlife exposition may include wildlife conservation fund raising activities, outdoor exhibits, retail marketing of outdoor products and services, public awareness programs, and other similar activities.

(d) "Wildlife exposition audit" means an annual review by the division of the conservation organization's processes used to handle applications for expo permits and conduct the drawing, the protocols associated with collecting and using client data, the revenue generated from expo permit application handling fees, and the expenditure of designated expo permit application handling fee revenue on division-approved projects.

(e) "Wildlife expo permit" means a permit which:

(i) is authorized by the Wildlife Board to be issued to successful applicants through a drawing or random selection process conducted at a Utah wildlife exposition; and

(ii) allows the permittee to hunt the designated species on the designated unit during the respective season for each species as authorized by the Wildlife Board.

(f) "Wildlife expo permit series" means a single package of permits to be determined by the Wildlife Board for:

(i) deer;

(ii) elk;

(iii) pronghorn;

(iv) moose;

(v) bison;

- (vi) mountain goat;
- (vii) desert bighorn sheep;
- (viii) rocky mountain bighorn sheep;
- (ix) wild turkey;
- (x) cougar; or
- (xi) black bear.
- (g) "Secured opportunity" means the opportunity to receive a specified wildlife expo permit that is secured by an eligible applicant through the exposition drawing process.
- (h) "Successful applicant" means an individual selected to receive a wildlife expo permit through the drawing process.

**R657-55-3. Wildlife Expo Permit Allocation.**

(1) The Wildlife Board may allocate wildlife expo permits after May 1 of the year preceding the wildlife exposition.

(2) Wildlife expo permits shall be issued as a single series to one conservation organization.

(3) The number of wildlife expo permits authorized by the Wildlife Board shall be based on:

- (a) the species population trend, size, distribution, and long-term health;
  - (b) the hunting and viewing opportunity for the general public, both short and long term;
- and

(c) a percentage of the permits available to nonresidents in the annual big game drawings matched by a proportionate number of resident permits.

(4) Wildlife expo permits, including special nonresident expo permits, shall not exceed 200 total permits.

(5) Wildlife expo permits designated for the exposition each year shall be deducted from the number of public drawing permits.

**R657-55-4. Obtaining Authority to Distribute Wildlife Expo Permit Series.**

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the wildlife expo permit series is issued for a period of five years.

(b) The original five-year term may be renewed for an additional period not to exceed five years, provided:

(i) the conservation organization, Division of Purchasing and General Services procurement officer, Wildlife Board, and division mutually agree in writing to the renewal term; and

(ii) the procurement officer determines in writing pursuant to Section 63G-6a-1204(7) that the renewal term is in the division's best interest and places the writing in the conservation organization's procurement file.

(2)(a) The wildlife expo permit series is available to eligible conservation organizations for distribution through a drawing or other random selection process held at a wildlife exposition in Utah open to the public.

(b) The division may unilaterally discontinue or suspend issuing the wildlife expo permit series at:

(i) the conclusion of the original five-year contract term or renewal term described in Subsection (1) and prior to issuance of a contract under this rule; or

(ii) any time during the term of a contract when in the interest of wildlife conservation, management, or compliance with law.

(3) Prior to expiration of a current wildlife exposition term or renewal term, the division may issue through the Division of Purchasing and General Services a request for proposal consistent with the Procurement Code in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code to solicit bids from conservation organizations desiring to distribute the wildlife expo permit series at a wildlife exposition.

(4) The request for proposal will solicit information relevant to successfully conducting a wildlife exposition, competently distributing the expo permit series, protecting confidential personal information acquired in distributing permits, and generating revenue for wildlife conservation in Utah, including:

- (a) the name, address and telephone number of the conservation organization;
- (b) a description of the conservation organization's mission statement;
- (c) documentation establishing the conservation organization meets the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(a) and is eligible to submit a proposal;
- (d) the name of the president or other individual responsible for the administrative operations of the conservation organization;
- (e) a detailed business plan describing how the:
  - (i) proposed wildlife exposition will take place;
  - (ii) proposed wildlife exposition will satisfy the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(c);
  - (iii) wildlife expo permit drawing procedures will be carried out; and
  - (iv) confidential personal information acquired in the drawing process will be safeguarded;
- (f) the conservation organization and any partnering entities' ability, including past performance in marketing conservation permits under R657-41, to effectively plan and complete the wildlife exposition;
- (g) the conservation organization's commitment to use expo permit handling fee revenue to benefit protected wildlife in Utah; and
- (h) historical contributions of the conservation organization and any partnering entities to the conservation of wildlife in Utah.

(5) Proposals submitted in response to a request for proposal under Subsection (4) will be processed, evaluated, and acted upon consistent with the procurement requirements set forth in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code.

(6) The conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series must:

- (a) require each wildlife expo permit applicant to possess a current Utah hunting or combination license before applying for a wildlife expo permit;
- (b) select successful applicants for wildlife expo permits by drawing or other random selection process in accordance with law, provisions of this rule, and orders of the Wildlife Board;
- (c) allow applicants to apply for wildlife expo permits without purchasing admission to the wildlife exposition;
- (d) notify the division of the successful applicant of each wildlife expo permit within 10 days of the applicant's selection;
- (e) maintain records demonstrating that the drawing was conducted fairly; and
- (f) submit to an annual wildlife exposition audit by a division appointed auditor.

(7) The division shall issue the appropriate wildlife expo permit to the designated successful applicant after:

- (a) completion of the random selection process;

- (b) verification of the recipient being eligible for the permit; and
- (c) payment of the appropriate permit fee is received by the division.
- (8) The division and the conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series will enter into a contract with terms that include the relevant provisions in this rule, the request for proposal, and the conservation organization's proposal.

(9) If the conservation organization awarded the wildlife expo permit series withdraws before the end of the 5-year period or any extension period under R657-55-4(1)(b), any remaining co-participant with the conservation organization may assume the contract and distribute the expo permit series consistent with the contract and this rule for the remaining years in the applicable period, provided:

(a) The original contracted conservation organization submits a certified letter to the head of the procurement unit, as defined in Section 63G-6a-103, and the division identifying that it will no longer be participating in the exposition;

(b) The co-participant conservation organization submits a request with the head of the procurement unit and the division for authorization to assume the remaining term of the contract ; and

(c) the head of the procurement unit, in consultation with the division and Wildlife Board, approves the application.

(10) The division may suspend or terminate the conservation organization's authority to distribute wildlife expo permits at any time during the original five -year award term or any renewal period for:

(a) violating any of the requirements set forth in this rule or the contract; or

(b) failing to bring or organize a wildlife exposition in Utah, as described in the business plan under R657-55-4(4)(e), in any given year.

#### **R657-55-5. Wildlife Expo Permit Application Procedures.**

(1) Any person legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife expo permit, except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident expo permit.

(2) The handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall be \$5 per application submitted.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife exposition to be eligible to participate in the wildlife expo permit drawing.

(i) No person may submit an application in behalf of another.

(ii) A person may validate their wildlife expo permit application at the exposition without having to enter the exposition and pay the admission charge.

(b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife exposition as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided exposition administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:

(i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

(ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

(iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and

(iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.

(c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military

orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f), when requested by the division.

(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.

(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.

(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.

(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a wildlife expo permit.

(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife expo permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

#### **R657-55-6. Drawing Procedures.**

(1) A random drawing or selection process must be conducted for each wildlife expo permit.

(2) Preference and bonus points are neither awarded nor applied in the drawings.

(3) Waiting periods do not apply, except any person who obtains a wildlife expo permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in R657-62 and the guide books of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(4) No predetermined quotas or restrictions shall be imposed in the application or selection process for wildlife expo permits between resident and nonresident applicants, except that special nonresident expo permits may only be awarded to a nonresident of Utah.

(5) Drawings will be conducted within five days of the close of the exposition.

(6) Applicants do not have to be present at the drawing to be awarded a wildlife expo permit.

(7) The conservation organization shall identify all eligible alternates for each wildlife expo permit and provide the division with a finalized list. This list will be maintained by the conservation organization until all permits are issued.

(8) The division shall contact successful applicants, and the conservation organization shall post the name of all successful applicants on a designated website.

#### **R657-55-7. Issuance of Permits.**

(1) The division shall provide a wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant, as designated by the conservation organization.

(2) The division must provide a wildlife expo permit to each successful applicant, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(3) The division shall provide each successful applicant a letter indicating the permit secured in the drawing, the appropriate fee owed the division, and the date the fee is due.

(4)(a) Successful applicants must submit the permit fee payment in full to the division before receiving the permit.

(b) Subject to the limitation in Subsection (8), the division will issue the designated wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant.

(5) Residents will pay resident permit fees and nonresidents will pay nonresident permit fees.

(6) Beginning in 2019, applicants are eligible to obtain only one expo permit each year, regardless of species.

(7) If an applicant is selected for more than one expo permit, the division will contact the applicant to determine which permit the applicant selects.

(a) The applicant must select the permit of choice within 2 days of receiving notification.

(b) If the division is unable to contact the applicant within 2 days, the division will issue to the applicant the permit with the most difficult drawing odds based on drawing results from the division's big game drawing for the preceding year.

(c) Permits not issued to the applicant will go to the next person on the alternate drawing list for that permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit.

(8) Any successful applicant who fails to satisfy the following requirements will be ineligible to receive the wildlife expo permit and the next drawing alternate for that permit will be selected:

(a) The applicant fails to remit the appropriate permit fee in full to the division by the date provided in Subsection (3);

(b) The applicant does not possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license at the time the expo permit application was submitted; or

(c) The applicant is legally ineligible to possess the permit.

#### **R657-55-8. Surrender or Transfer of Wildlife Expo Permits.**

(1)(a) A person selected to receive a wildlife expo permit that is also successful in obtaining a Utah once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry permit for the same species in the same year or successful in obtaining a general permit for a male animal of the same species in the same year, may not possess both permits and must select the permit of choice.

(b) In the event a secured opportunity is surrendered before the permit is issued, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive the permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not:

(i) have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit; or

(ii) possess any other expo permit valid in the same year.

(c) In the event the wildlife expo permit is surrendered, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (b).

(d) The permit fee on a surrendered expo permit may be refunded, as provided in Sections 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2, and R657-42-5.

(2) A person selected by a conservation organization to receive a wildlife expo permit, may not sell or transfer the permit, or any rights thereunder to another person in accordance with Section 23-19-1.

(3) If a person is successful in obtaining a wildlife expo permit but is legally ineligible to hunt in Utah, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (1)(b).

#### **R657-55-9. Using a Wildlife Expo Permit.**

(1) A wildlife expo permit allows the recipient to:

(a) take only the species and sex printed on the permit;

(b) take the species only in the area and during the season specified on the permit; and

(c) take the species only with the weapon type specified on the permit.

(2) The recipient of a wildlife expo permit is subject to all the provisions of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code, and the rules and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing wildlife.

**R657-55-10. Wildlife Expo Permit -- Application Handling Fee Revenue.**

(1)(a) All wildlife expo permit application handling fee revenue generated by the conservation organization under R657-55-5(2) will be deposited in a separate, federally insured account to prevent commingling with any other funds.

(b) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue retained by the conservation organization for administrative expenses under Subsection (2) may be retained and used by the conservation organization.

(c) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue committed to fund wildlife conservation projects under Subsection (3) shall be used by the conservation organization to fund approved wildlife conservation projects.

(2) The conservation organization may retain up to \$3.50 of each \$5.00 application handling fee for administrative expenses, unless the conservation organization pledges a greater percentage of the application handling fee to wildlife conservation in:

(a) its response to the request for proposal; or

(b) the expo contract with the division.

(3) The remaining balance of each \$5.00 application handling fee and accrued interest, less standard banking fees assessed on the account where the funding is deposited, will be used by the conservation organization to fund projects advancing wildlife interests in the state, subject to the following:

(a) project funding will not be committed to or expended on any project without first obtaining the division director's written approval;

(b) cash donations to the Wildlife Habitat Account created under Section 23-19-43 or Division Species Enhancement Funds are authorized projects that do not require the division director's approval; and

(c) application handling fee revenue dedicated to funding projects must be completely expended on approved projects or transferred to the division by August 1st, two years following the year in which the application handling fee revenue is collected.

(4) Application handling fee revenue committed to division-approved projects will be transferred by the conservation organization to the division within 60 days of being invoiced by the division.

(a) If the division-approved project to which funds are committed is completed under projected budget or canceled, funds committed to the project that are not used will be kept by the division and credited back to the conservation organization and made available for the group to use on other approved projects during the current or subsequent year.

(5) All records and receipts for projects under Subsection (3) must be retained by the conservation organization for a period not less than five years, and shall be produced to the division for inspection upon request.

(6) The conservation organization shall submit a report to the division and Wildlife Board each year by August 1st that accounts for and documents the following:

(a) gross revenue generated from collecting \$5 wildlife expo permit application handling fees;

(b) total amount of application handling fee revenue retained for administrative expenses;  
and

(c) total amount of application handling fee revenue set aside and dedicated to funding projects, including bank statements showing account balances.

(7) A partner organization that individually receives application handling fee revenue from the expo permit drawing pursuant to a co-participant contract with the conservation organization, is subject to the provisions in Subsections (1) through (6).

**KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: August 9, 2018**

**Notice of Continuation: May 5, 2015**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19**



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAL D. FOWLKS  
Division Director

August 13, 2020

Dear Utah Wildlife Board:

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources holds a contract with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (“SFW”) to hold an annual wildlife exposition and to perform an independent permit drawing that distributes limited entry permits allocated to the Wildlife Exposition Program (“Expo”) by the Wildlife Board. The Expo has been in existence for approximately 14 years and has generated substantial wildlife benefits and millions of dollars in general economic stimulus to the State of Utah. During the current contract term, SFW estimates that it has brought more than 250,000 visitors to its Western Hunting and Conservation Expo, held annually at the Salt Lake Convention Center, and generated \$6.8 Million that is invested directly back into wildlife conservation in this state.

The Expo permit drawing is a unique incentive that enhances the Expo and provides hunting opportunity on highly-sought-after units to hundreds of hunters. It is critical that it is run in a professional, secure, and reliable manner. Pursuant to Utah Administrative Rule R657-55-4 and the Utah Procurement Code, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources identified SFW as their preferred contractor to administer the Expo Permit Drawing for a period of five years. This decision was approved by the Wildlife Board in 2015, and the Division and SFW entered into a five-year contract, with an option to renew for an additional five years if certain contingencies are satisfied.

We are currently in year four of this agreement, and the Division has reviewed SFW’s performance during the initial contract term. During this time, Expo attendance and Expo permit applications have steadily increased. SFW has maintained the strict data security protocols necessary to protect the permit applicant’s personally identifying information and payment records. And lastly, SFW has properly accounted for Expo permit funds as described in the Division’s annual audit, and reflected in the lengthy list of beneficial projects that have been completed with these funds statewide. The Division is satisfied with SFW’s performance under the contract and wishes to continue this beneficial partnership.

For these reasons, the Division believes that it is in their best interests to renew the current Expo contract with SFW for an additional 5-year term, effective through 2026. We request the Wildlife Board review this request and make a similar determination. Following Board review, the request will be submitted to the Utah Division of Purchasing and General Services procurement officer for their confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenny Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



A review of the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo and some of the measurable impacts on Utah wildlife and habitat directly resulting from Utah's 200 Expo Permits

**2016-2020**

**Rule R657-55 “Wildlife Expo Permits”**

“Wildlife Expo permits are authorized by the Utah Wildlife Board and issued by the Division for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting and supporting a regional or national wildlife exposition in Utah.”

**Strengthening Wildlife Conservation**

The work of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, in partnership with the Expo Partners, has been accelerated over the past five years as a direct result of the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo and Utah’s 200 Expo Permits. The Expo Partners bring a powerful combination of passionate volunteers, philanthropic donors, industry sponsors, and the combined energy of the western states’ hunting public to build and maintain Utah’s world-class herds and a world-class expo. The true success of the Expo and Utah’s 200 Expo Permits is in supporting the UDWR’s conservation efforts across the state to restore, protect, and enhance wildlife populations and critical watershed habitat initiatives in many measurable ways.

**Expo Attendance**

Year	Attendance
2016	44,000
2017	46,000
2018	50,000
2019	54,685
2020	60,000

**# of Exhibitors**

Year	# of Exhibitors
2016	365
2017	388
2018	392
2019	456
2020	488

**# of Applicants – Residents**

Year	# of Applicants
2016	14,166
2017	14,611
2018	15,656
2019	15,391
2020	15,661

**# of Applicants – Non-Residents**

Year	# of Applicants
2016	1,341
2017	1,516
2018	1,743
2019	1,929
2020	2,284

**# of \$5 Applications – Residents**

Year	# of Applications
2016	195,973
2017	204,016
2018	230,155
2019	232,143
2020	236,661

**# of \$5 Applications – Non-Residents**

Year	# of Applications
2016	37,237
2017	43,132
2018	50,317
2019	60,642
2020	69,951

**\$5 Application Fee Revenue**

Year	Applications	Revenue
2016	233,210	\$1,166,050
2017	247,148	\$1,235,740
2018	280,472	\$1,402,360
2019	292,785	\$1,463,925
2020	306,612	\$1,533,060
<b>5-Year Total</b>	<b>1,360,227</b>	<b>\$6,801,135</b>

**Expo Applicants from 47 States in 2020**

Applicants from 47 states came to Salt Lake City in February 2020 to attend the Expo and validate their 200 Permits applications. Only Maine, Nebraska and Rhode Island were not represented.



### License Sales

Year	# of Licenses	Revenue
2016	746	\$33,993
2017	1,225	\$57,329
2018	1,018	\$46,758
2019	1,389	\$64,518
2020	1,148	\$54,474
<b>5-Year Total</b>	<b>5,526</b>	<b>\$257,072</b>

### Revenue from Conservation Permits Auctioned at the Expo

Year	Total \$
2016	\$1,514,500
2017	\$1,975,250
2018	\$2,238,750
2019	\$1,878,000
2020	\$2,029,000
<b>5-Year Total</b>	<b>\$9,635,500</b>
Average	\$1,927,100 / year

### Utah State Sales Tax Revenue Collected from Expo Exhibitors

Year	Tax Revenue
2018	\$67,852
2019	\$151,317
2020	\$182,028

### Expo Partners



### Expo Key Sponsors



**A Sampling of Wildlife Conservation Projects Funded  
Partially with \$5 Expo Permit Application Revenue  
Utah Watershed Initiative Projects: 2016–2020**

Hamlin Valley Habitat Restoration Project Sagebrush Restoration  
Cedar City and Summit I-15 Deer Fence and Cattle Guards  
Book Cliffs Lower Elevation Guzzlers  
Mill Fork Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project  
Roughneck Vegetation Restoration  
Yellowjacket Watershed Improvement  
McMillan Spring Phase III  
Flaming Gorge Bighorn Sheep Habitat Lop and Scatter  
Mormon Pasture Mountain Wildlife Habitat Improvement  
Birdseye WMA Bullhog Project  
Winter Deer Feed FY17  
FY18 Wildlife Migration Initiative  
Ogden Bay WMA East Dike Restoration  
Utah Migration Initiative  
Indian Creek West Drag Chaining  
Warm Spring Hills Juniper Removal  
Salt Creek WMA Water Share Purchase  
Monroe Mountain Aspen Ecosystems Restoration Project  
Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project  
Cedar Fort Chaining  
Went Ridge Guzzlers  
Little Valley North Sheeprocks Pinion-Juniper Removal  
FY17 DeerFawn/Adult Survival  
FY17 Effects of Habitat Treatments on Mule Deer  
MarshMasters for Phragmites Control on GSL Waterfowl Management Areas  
FY17 Determinants of Population Growth in Utah Moose  
Crouse Canyon Brows Plots  
Moon Ridge Chaining  
North Elk Ridge Aspen Restoration  
Westside Northeastern Region WMA's Water Development  
Willow Creek Habitat Improvement and Fuels Reduction  
Box Elder SGMA Aerial Infrared Lek Searches  
Long Hollow Sheep/Parowan Gap Vegetation Treatment

**Summary**

Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, the Mule Deer Foundation, and Utah Wild Sheep believe the Expo 200 Permits and the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo are irreplaceable in effectively generating annual revenues that fund significant wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attract a large-scale national wildlife exposition to the state.

The Expo and 200 Permits both generate large amounts of revenue from the public/private sector that functions as seed money for critical watershed and wildlife conservation projects in the State of Utah.

These three wildlife conservation organizations, each headquartered in Utah, work in partnership with each other and with the Utah Division of Wildlife toward the collective goal of protecting and enhancing critical habitat for the benefit of Utah wildlife and all sportsmen and women.

We renew our collective commitment to stay the course with the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo for the next five years and beyond. We pledge to continue the pursuit of even greater success and measurable results through effective and purposeful management of this important event and the 200 Permits application and drawing processes. We look forward to strengthening our support of and cooperation with the UDWR's conservation efforts across the state. We strongly encourage the Utah Wildlife Board and the Utah Division of Wildlife to extend the 200 Permits contract with SFW for the next five years.



Troy Justensen  
SFW President & CEO



Miles Morettii  
MDF President & CEO



Travis Jensen  
Utah Wild Sheep President





GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAL D. FOWLKS  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

Date: August 17, 2020

To: Wildlife Board

From: Justin M. Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

**Subject: Expo Permit Allocation**

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending 200 hunting permits for the Hunt Expo (see attached tables for details). Proposed changes this year include:

### Discontinued Permits:

Cougar – Central Mtns, Nebo (Split, limited entry)  
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti (Split, limited entry)  
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti (Split, limited entry)  
Fillmore, Pahvant (Split, limited entry)  
Panguitch Lake (Split, limited entry)  
Plateau, Boulder (Split, limited entry)  
Plateau, Fishlake (Split, limited entry)

Desert bighorn sheep – Zion (Non-resident, early)

Mountain goat – Ogden, Willard Peak (Non-resident, hunter's choice)

Pronghorn – Plateau, Parker Mtn (Any legal weapon)  
Southwest Desert (Any legal weapon)

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep – Nine Mile, Gray Canyon (Non-resident, early)

### Additional Permits:

Black bear – Central Mtns, Nebo (Spring, any legal weapon, no bait)

Deer – Pine Valley (Late-season muzzleloader)  
Wasatch, West (Late-season muzzleloader)

Desert bighorn sheep – Kaiparowits, East (Non-resident, early)

Mountain goat – La Sal, La Sal Mtns (Non-resident, hunter's choice)

Pronghorn – Nine Mile, Anthro (Any legal weapon)  
San Rafael, North (Any legal weapon, 3 permits)

Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep – Fillmore, Oak Creek (Non-resident, early)

Turkey – Central Region (Spring, limited entry)  
Northern Region (Spring, limited entry)

All other expo permits will remain the same as last year.

## 2021 Expo Permits by Species and Residency

		TOTAL PERMITS		
		Res	NonRes	Total
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>200</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	2	1	3
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	1	0	1
Antlerless Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bison	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Hunter's Choice	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Hunter's Choice (Nonresident Only, early)	0	1	1
Bison	Book Cliffs	Cow Only	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Cow Only (early)	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	Summer, Any Legal Weapon, No Dogs	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mile	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-North	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mtns, Nebo	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, North	Any Weapon	6	3	9
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oak Creek LE	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Management Buck, Any Weapon	1	1	2
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck, Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Pine Valley	Late-season Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Wasatch, West	Late-season Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2

Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>47</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Any Weapon	3	0	3
Buck Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Archery	1	0	1
Buck Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Pronghorn	Nine Mile, Anthro-Myton Bench	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Buck Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Any Weapon	2	2	4
Buck Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Buck Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (mid)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Multi-Season	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>91</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns		1	0	1
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns	Nonresident Only	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Kaiparowits, East	Nonresident Only (early)	0	1	1
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Kaiparowits, West		1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Mountain Goat	Central Mtns, Nebo	Hunter's Choice, Archery	1	0	1
Mountain Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas West	Hunter's Choice	1	1	2
Mountain Goat	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Hunter's Choice (Nonresident Only)	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn	(early)	1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Fillmore, Oak Creek	Nonresident Only (early)	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Turkey	Northern Region	Spring, Limited Entry	1	1	2
Turkey	Northeast Region	Spring, Limited Entry	1	0	1
Turkey	Central Region	Spring, Limited Entry	1	1	2
Turkey	Southern Region	Spring, Limited Entry	1	0	1
Turkey	Southeast Region	Spring, Limited Entry	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>



**GARY R. HERBERT**  
*Governor*

**SPENCER J. COX**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**BRIAN C. STEED**  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

**MICHAL D. FOWLKS**  
*Division Director*

August 13, 2020

Dear Utah Wildlife Board:

Due to the public health threat caused by COVID-19 and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, state of Utah, and local health department to avoid public gatherings and maintain social distancing; the Division is proposing some temporary changes for the 2021 expo only. The proposed changes include: in-person validation for expo permits not required, the drawing may be done entirely electronically provided an in-person or virtual expo is held, and the minimum in-person attendance objectives be waived for 2021 only.

Sincerely,

Kenny Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-55. Wildlife Expo Permits.**

#### **R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife expo permits.

(2) Wildlife expo permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting and supporting a regional or national wildlife exposition in Utah.

(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at an exposition held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife expo permits.

(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife expo permits per year to a qualified conservation organization.

#### **R657-55-5. Wildlife Expo Permit Application Procedures.**

(1) Any person legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife expo permit, except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident expo permit.

(2) The handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall be \$5 per application submitted.

(3)(a) Except as provided in [~~Subsection~~Subsections (3)(b) and (9), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife exposition to be eligible to participate in the wildlife expo permit drawing.

(i) No person may submit an application in behalf of another.

(ii) A person may validate their wildlife expo permit application at the exposition without having to enter the exposition and pay the admission charge.

(b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife exposition as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided exposition administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:

(i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

(ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

(iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and

(iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.

(c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f), when requested by the division.

(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.

(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.

(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.

(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a wildlife expo permit.

(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife expo permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

(9) Due to the serious public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations from the CDC, State of Utah, and local health departments to avoid public gatherings and to maintain social distancing, the 2021 exposition is modified as follows:

(a) wildlife expo permit applicants will not be required to validate their applications in-person at the expo permit drawing;

(b) the wildlife expo permit drawing may be conducted entirely in an electronic format, provided an in-person or electronic exposition is held;

(c) exposition requirements in this rule and in contract related to holding an in-person exposition and meeting minimum in-person attendance objectives are waived.

**KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: August 9, 2018**

**Notice of Continuation: April 6, 2020**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19**