RAC AGENDA – November 2025

1.	Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure - RAC Chair	
2.	Approval of Agenda and Minutes - RAC Chair	**ACTION**
3.	Wildlife Board Meeting Update - RAC Chair	**INFORMATIONAL**
4.	Regional Update - DWR Regional Supervisor	**INFORMATIONAL**
5.	Mandatory Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease - Ginger Stout, Wildlife Veterinarian	**INFORMATIONAL**
6.	2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions - Sam Robertson, Northern Region Wildlife Biologist	**ACTION**
7.	Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan - Clint Sampson, Northeastern Region Wildlife Biologist	**ACTION**
8.	R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief - Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator	**ACTION**
9.	CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations - Darren DeBloois, Public Lands Private Wildlife Coordinator	**ACTION**

Meeting Locations

NR RAC – Nov. 12th 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd., Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/yc330Ysk_Wc

CR RAC –**Thursday** Nov. 13th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resource Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
https://youtube.com/live/CfDuo5IMSGg

SR RAC – Nov. 18th 6:00 PM
Southern Utah University,
Hunter Conf. Center, Charles R Hunter Room
https://youtube.com/live/woqJ7VvPqoU

SER RAC – Nov. 19th 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
https://youtube.com/live/RbhFZqOZjCE

NER RAC – Nov. 20th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal
https://youtube.com/live/xdEy-6sgUS4

Board Meeting – December 4th 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
https://youtube.com/live/3gqjyF48cnY

State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

Riley Peck
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 17, 2025

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Virginia Stout, DWR Wildlife Veterinarian, Wildlife Health Program

Subject: 2026 mandatory chronic wasting disease sampling (informational)

The DWR will implement mandatory sampling for chronic wasting disease (CWD for one season, on one hunt unit in the fall of 2026.

Mandatory sampling for fall 2026:

Ogden (Unit 3), General-season, any legal weapon buck deer hunt

In accordance with Utah's Statewide Mule Deer Management and CWD Management Plans, the DWR's CWD sampling efforts are designed to detect ≥ 1% prevalence of CWD with a 95% confidence. It has become increasingly difficult to obtain adequate sample sizes to achieve statistically meaningful results. Very few of our target units have reached the necessary sample size to determine prevalence. To reach our goal of improving detection in units without detected CWD, especially if they are next to positive units, DWR is implementing mandatory sampling.

In accordance with Utah's "Taking big game" rule, R657-5-44(2)(a-d), the DWR will implement mandatory sampling for chronic wasting disease. The rule authorizes the division to identify units where successful hunters can be required to submit samples for chronic wasting disease testing. The DWR must identify those units in the big game guidebook, notify hunters in writing before the hunt about the testing requirements, and hold hunters accountable for complying with the mandatory testing requirements.

Mandatory testing will begin in the Ogden unit for the general-season, any legal weapon buck deer hunt (Oct. 17-25, 2026). The Ogden unit was selected because it has the most recent detection of CWD in the state, with the closest positive on the East Canyon unit. In addition, the detection was in an elk, with no other deer detections nearby, which is abnormal for the typical progression of CWD. DWR would like to learn more about how CWD is behaving in this unit and determine accurate prevalence.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.
R657-5. Taking Big Game.
R657-5-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23A-2-304 and 23A-2-305, the Wildlife Board has established:

(a) this rule for taking deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, bison, bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain goat.

(b) appropriate weapons or devices to take big game and restrictions to weapons or devices to take big game.

(2) Specific dates, areas, methods of take, requirements, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

R657-5-44. Chronic Wasting Disease - Infected Animals and Testing.

(1) Any person who under the authority of a permit issued by the division legally takes a deer, elk, or moose that is later confirmed to be infected with Chronic Wasting Disease may:

(a) retain the entire carcass of the animal; or

(b) retain any parts of the carcass, including antlers, and surrender the rest to the division for proper disposal;

(2)(a) The division may identify big game hunting units where all or some permit holders may be required to submit their harvested animal to the division for Chronic Wasting Disease testing.

(b) Big game hunting units that are eligible for mandatory testing will be identified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(c) Individuals possessing permits who are selected as participants in the big game Chronic Wasting Disease testing program will be notified in writing before the opening day of their hunt with a list of program requirements.

(d) An individual who fails to comply with mandatory testing requirements in this rule may be declared ineligible to apply for or receive any big game licenses, permits, or certificates of registration until they comply with the requirements of this rule and any assessment of fees under Section R657-42-9.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, big game seasons
Date of Last Change: March 10, 2025
Notice of Continuation: September 8, 2020
Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-2-304; 23A-2-305; 23A-11-201; 23A-11-202

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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JOEL FERRY
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
RILEY PECK
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Sam Robertson, Northern Region Wildlife Biologist

DATE: Oct. 17, 2025

SUBJECT: **Proposed changes to Utah's 2026-2027 big game hunt tables and season dates**

We are recommending the following changes to the Utah big game hunt tables, hunt boundaries and season dates for the 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons:

- Adding a new Henry Mtns cow bison hunt and making slight date adjustments to the other bison hunt season dates within the unit to accommodate this new hunt.
- Modifying the West Cache elk extended archery boundary and season dates to help with population management and to address depredation and public safety concerns.

Bison: Changes to the hunt structure of the Henry Mtns bison hunts

The DWR recommends adding an additional Henry Mtns cow-only bison hunt. This additional cow hunt is necessary to:

- Achieve required harvest while avoiding changes in bison distribution, which could result in low hunter success and low hunter satisfaction.
- Address current drought conditions, while managing to the population objective, when the two existing cow hunts are at capacity.

To accommodate this additional cow hunt, we recommend:

- Moving the opening day of most Henry Mtns bison hunts three days earlier.
- Slightly adjusting **all** of the Henry Mtns bison hunt dates for 2026 and 2027.
- Continuing to offer the archery hunt as the final hunt of each season, ending on Jan. 31.

We are recommending these changes for the 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons. We anticipate that these changes will allow more flexibility to address drought conditions and will facilitate the additional cow harvest necessary to manage to the population objective. (See all the proposed Henry Mtns bison season dates in the table on page two.)

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UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Recommended adjustments to Henry Mtns bison hunt dates for the 2026-2027 seasons

		Recommended	
Hunt number	**2025 dates**	**2026 dates**	**2027 dates**
BI6503 (hunter's choice)	Nov. 1–12	Oct. 28–Nov. 8	Nov. 3–14
BI6504 (hunter's choice)	Nov. 15–26	Nov. 11–22	Nov. 17–28
BI6516 (hunter's choice)	Nov. 29–Dec. 10	Nov. 25–Dec. 6	Dec. 1–12
BI6505 (cow only)	Dec. 13–24	Dec. 9–20	Dec. 15–26
BI6506 (cow only)	Dec. 27–Jan. 13, 2026	Dec. 23, 2026–Jan. 3, 2027	Dec. 29, 2027–Jan. 9, 2028
New hunt (cow only)	–	Jan. 6–17, 2027	Jan. 12–23, 2028
BI6509 (archery, hunter's choice)	Jan. 14–31, 2026	Jan. 18–31, 2027	Jan. 24–31, 2028

Elk: Changes to the West Cache elk extended archery boundary and season dates

We recommend modifying the West Cache elk extended archery boundary and season dates. By doing so, we can:

- Target elk that are causing depredation issues for a longer period.
- Provide hunters with additional harvest opportunities that will help manage the population.
- Continue to apply hunting pressure within areas where rifle hunts would be unsafe.

Proposed West Cache season date and boundary modifications

For 2026-2027, we recommend ending the West Cache extended archery hunting season on Jan. 31. (It has ended on Dec. 15 in past years.)

The recommended modifications to the West Cache elk extended archery boundary will make the boundary easier for hunters to follow:

- The proposed boundary above Hyrum, Paradise and Avon will follow the High Line Canal, instead of the Forest Service boundary that crossed through several private properties.
- The proposed boundary will also include a section in Mt. Sterling that has increasing depredation issues.
- On the west side, the proposed boundary will be better defined and will include private property along the Forest Service boundary.

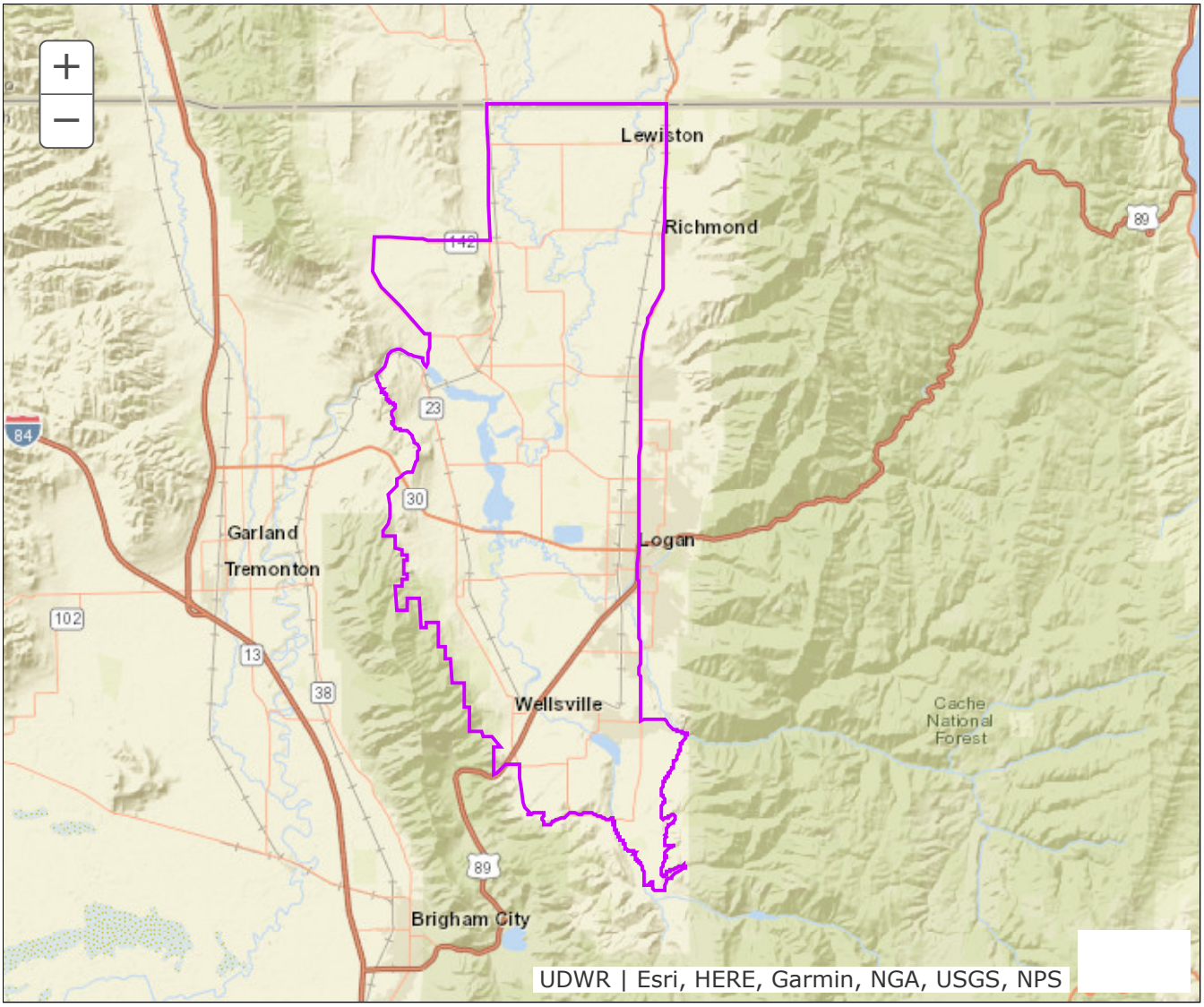
For details, please see the map and written boundary description in the RAC packet.

Wildlife UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

BOUNDARY RECOMMENDATION

UNIT West Cache Extended Archery Area (Elk)

SPECIES Elk



Updated Boundary: Cache County—Boundary begins at the intersection of the Idaho state line and US-89/91; south on US-89/91 to the intersection of SR-165 in Logan; south on SR-165 to SR-101; east on SR-101 to the Blacksmith Fork River crossing; southeast along the Blacksmith Fork River to the Highline Canal; south along the Highline Canal to 800 east in Avon; south and west on 800 east (10000 south Paradise Dry Canyon Road) to 10600 south; west on 10600 south to 800 east; south on 800 east to SR-165; north and west on SR-165 to West Canyon Road; west on West Canyon Road to the Little Bear River crossing; north along the Little Bear River to Mount Pisgah Road; west on Mount Pisgah Road to the J Baxter Walk in Access property line; north and west following the J Baxter Walk in Access property line to 2400 west; north on 2400 west to the G Baxter Walk in Access property line; west and south along the G Baxter Walk in Access property line to Mount Pisgah Road; south and west along Mount Pisgah Road to 8800 south; west on 8800 south to 3200 west; north along 3200 west to 8500 south; west on 8500 south to 4000 west; north on 4000 west to 6800 south; west on

6800 south to US-89/91; south on US-89/91 to where the Cache National Forest meets US 89/91; north along the Cache National Forest boundary to where the Cache National Forest boundary meet the Cache/Box Elder County line; north along the Cache/Box Elder County line to Cutler Reservoir; east along Cutler Reservoir to SR-23; north on SR-23 to the intersection of SR-142; north and east on SR-142 to the intersection of SR-23; north on SR-23 to Idaho state line; east along the Idaho state line to US-89/91. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Logan, Tremonton. Boundary questions? Call the Ogden office, 801-476-2740. — A hunting permit does not authorize the permit holder to hunt on Native American trust lands, CWMUs (unless you specifically have a permit for that CWMU) or on National Park lands. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of hunters to learn if hunting is allowed and what specific rules and regulations may apply on National Monuments, National Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, UDWR Wildlife and Waterfowl Management areas, military installations and within the boundaries of cities, towns and municipalities. Written permission is required to hunt private lands.

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JOEL FERRY
Executive Director
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RILEY PECK
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Clint Sampson, Wildlife Biologist

DATE: October 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Review and Updates for Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan.

The previous bison management plan was approved in 2007. There are new challenges to address, requiring us to update the plan. A Book Cliffs Bison Committee was formed to help resolve these issues.
Recommendations for updates are as follows:

<u>Proposed Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan Updates:</u>

- Expanding the bison population objective and splitting it between the subunits.
  - 250 wintering adult bison on the Bitter Creek subunit.
  - 400 wintering adult bison on the Little Creek and South subunits.
  - Previously the bison population objective was 450 wintering adults.
- Justification:
  - The distribution of the bison herd on the Bitter Creek subunit has greatly increased. This has allowed less overall impacts from the bison.
  - There have been several feral horse gathers to increase the amount of forage on the landscape.
  - Through the WRI process, several thousands of acres of habitat have been treated to increase forage. The DWR has invested resources in repairing ponds, building and maintaining guzzlers, and spring developments. This has helped the distribution of bison spread out across the entire Book Cliffs.
  - Current land purchases and changes in grazing practices have created an opportunity for an increase in bison numbers.

CS

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UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

BISON HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
BOOK CLIFFS
Unit #10

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Uintah and Grand counties - Boundary begins at the Utah-Colorado state line and the White River, south along this state line to the summit and north-south drainage divide of the Book Cliffs; west along this summit and drainage divide to the Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation boundary; north along this boundary to the Uintah-Grand County line; west along this county line to the Green River; north along this river to the White River; east along this river to the Utah-Colorado state line (Figure 1).

BOOK CLIFFS LAND OWNERSHIP

RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP

	Bitter Creek Subunit		**Little Creek Subunit**		**Combined North Subunits**	
Ownership	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**	**Area**	**%**
BLM	612,895	50.8%	1,888	3.3%	614,783	48.6%
SITLA	193,674	16%	48,623	85.1%	242,297	19.2%
DWR	17,028	1.4%	6,607	11.6%	23,635	1.9%
Private	63,103	5.2%	-	0%	63,103	5%
Ute Tribe Trust Land	320,864	26.6%	-	0%	320,864	25.4%
Total	**1,207,564**	**100%**	**57,118**	**100%**	**1,264,682**	**100%**

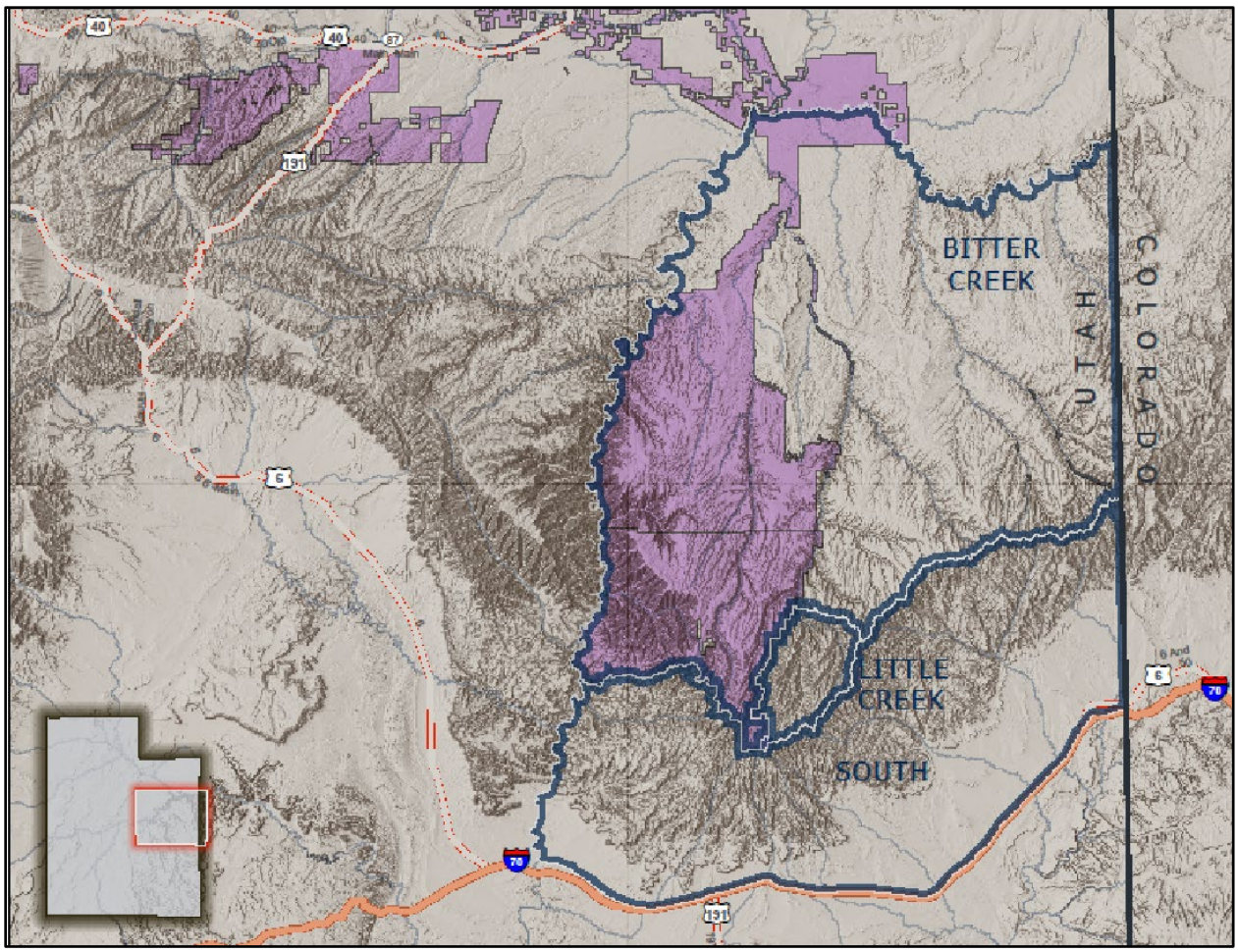

Figure 1. Map of Book Cliffs including subunits.

BOOK CLIFFS BISON HISTORY AND STATUS

Bison were historically present in the general East Tavaputs Plateau and Uinta Basin. The Escalante expedition reported killing a bison near the present site of Jensen, Utah in September 1776. Bison are also commonly depicted in Native American rock art and pictographs found throughout the area. Additionally, at least one bison skull was unearthed in the upper Willow Creek drainage within the Little Creek big game management subunit.

Bison were extirpated from the Book Cliffs until the Ute Indian Tribe reintroduced a herd on the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The initial reintroduction of 6 individuals in 1986 was followed by other Ute Tribal releases to establish a viable herd.

A local rancher and landowner also owned a small private bison herd on his ranch. This herd originated with 12 animals in 1999 and grew to approximately 30 individuals by

2004. Although the animals were largely confined to private land, occasional mixing with Ute Tribe bison occurred. The owner later divested himself of his bison herd through private hunt agreements.

Since their reintroduction by the Ute Indian Tribe, bison repopulated the Hill Creek Extension of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and naturally extended across historic ranges in the Book Cliffs. The Division viewed this expansion as a rare opportunity to provide a free range, publicly owned and managed bison herd. In 2007, a Book Cliffs bison planning committee was formed to consider the potential of transplanting bison to augment the existing herd and develop a management plan. The management plan was approved by the Utah Wildlife Board in fall 2007 and called for an initial release of 45 bison to supplement the existing herd. In fall 2007, 14 bison from the Ute Indian Tribe were released at Bogart cabin in the roadless area. During January 2009, 40 bison were captured on the Henry Mountains and released at Steer Ridge. After the initial transplants, an additional 40 bison were transplanted from the Henry Mountains and released on Moon Ridge in spring 2010.

As the population expanded across historic ranges, it grew to an estimated 480 wintering adults on state managed lands in 2024 and changed distribution in response to hunting pressure (Figure 2). In 2024 a new Book Cliffs bison planning committee was formed to address current issues and concerns. Committee membership was invited from various stakeholders and interests (Appendix A). The group reviewed bison herd growth, range expansion, animal health and sustainable harvest hunting opportunity. They then helped identify existing or potential issues and endeavored to find acceptable resolutions.

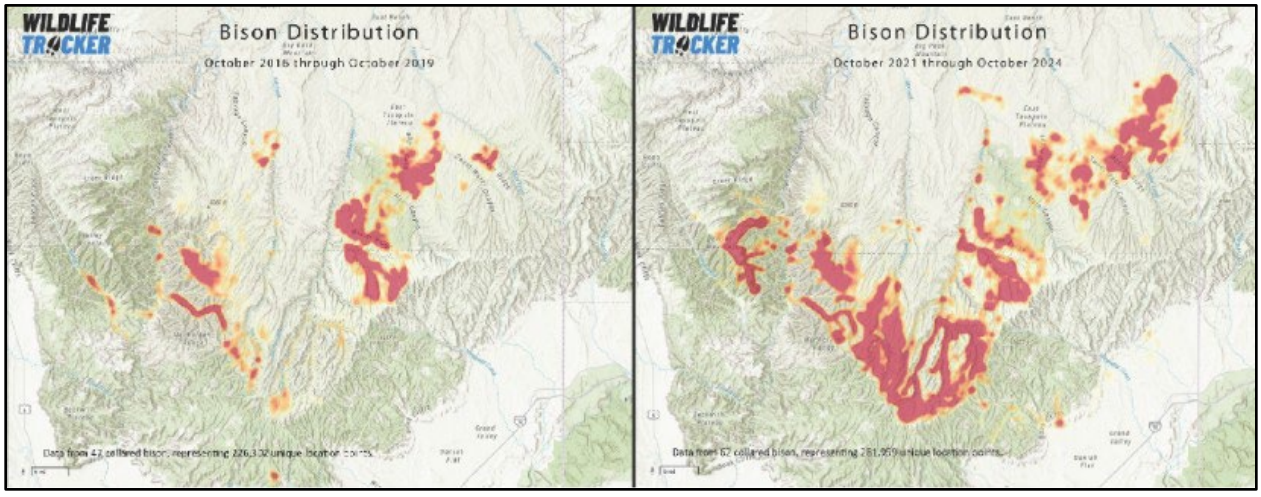

Figure 2. Distribution of collared bison in the Book Cliffs comparing 2016-2019 (left) and 2021-2024 (right).

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION INTENT

Disease

There are several diseases of major concern to bison in Utah, which are brucellosis, tuberculosis (TB), Johne's disease, *Mycoplasma bovis*, bovine virus diarrhea (BVD), and malignant catarrhal fever. They are diseases of concern due to either population level effects or effects to livestock grazing in the same area.

Brucellosis is caused by a bacterium, *Brucella abortus*, and causes abortions, retained placentas, arthritis, male reproductive tract pathology, and bursitis (Rhyan et. al. 2013). Due to intensive efforts of the state and federal governments, brucellosis was eliminated from livestock in the United States except for the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). Brucellosis is now considered endemic to bison and elk in the GYA and infects cattle herds periodically. Bison to cattle transmission is possible, but has not been documented in the GYA, due to management efforts to keep cattle and bison separated (Rhyan et al 2013). Brucellosis has not been detected to date in the Book Cliff bison herd.

Tuberculosis, when found in conjunction with brucellosis, can affect the survival and reproductive capabilities of cow bison. Bison are also susceptible to a related disease, paratuberculosis, or Johne's disease. Johne's disease is a viral infection that can have devastating effects on bison resulting in chronic diarrhea and emaciation. Neither disease has been detected in Utah to date.

Mycoplasma bovis is a severe respiratory disease that can cause high mortality in a herd. In the early 2000s, this disease emerged in bison herds around North America. Although most herds affected have been captive bison, it still poses a risk to wild bison since it is a primary pathogen in bison. Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) is a viral disease that affects ruminants around the world. Bison are susceptible to this virus, and infected individuals can become persistently infected which can lead to infections of other individuals in the herd causing immunosuppression, respiratory disease, reproductive failure, and mortality.

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) is the most serious viral disease affecting ranched bison. It is also known to affect other bovine species, domestic sheep and deer. Related to the herpes virus, it is transmitted through lacrimal, nasal, oral and vaginal secretions, but has occurred in other situations and direct contact is not necessary. Bison have contracted MCF from sheep grazed over 2 miles away (Haigh *et. al.* 2002). Wind-borne infections have been reported, and deer contracted the disease after traveling in a truck that carried sheep with MCF. Malignant catarrhal fever is invariably fatal, and there is no vaccine. Prevention requires that sheep do not have contact with susceptible species (Haigh *et. al. 2002*), and

it is generally recommended that domestic sheep herds not be grazed within two miles of bison to protect the population from MCF and Johne's disease.

Preventive measures to ensure disease free bison are used for herd supplementation will include cooperative blood or other testing with the Utah State Department of Agriculture and Food and the Utah State Wildlife Veterinarian. Additionally, blood, tissue or other biological samples will be taken cooperatively and opportunistically until annual hunting occurs. Each year that bison are captured, blood, hair, nasal swabs, feces, or other biological samples are collected and tested for various diseases. In addition, blood sample kits are issued to every hunter to test for brucellosis. Continued prudent livestock management coupled with consistent testing and monitoring of the bison herd should preclude brucellosis or other disease problems in the future. If a problem does develop, an intensive and cooperative disease eradication program will be initiated. Similar testing and monitoring of other significant diseases will also be conducted as warranted.

The Ute Indian Tribe also manages bison in close proximity to the Book Cliff bison. The Ute Indian Tribe attempts a near total round up of their bison each year. Testing efforts reveal that their herd is disease free as well.

Habitat and Forage Competition

There is considerable overlap in the diet of bison and domestic cattle. Nelson (1965) found that grasses and sedges comprised the majority of the bison diet from rumen samples. However, shrubs and forbs were also found, with snowberry being the most common shrub detected in the diet. Van Vuren (1979) reported that both bison and cattle on the Henry Mountains were primarily grazers, but that bison diet consisted of 5% browse, compared to no use by cattle. Cattle, on the other hand, were more likely to use forbs than bison. This is consistent with observations from Wood Bison in British Columbia. Harper *et. al.* (2000) reported that bison are very efficient at digesting low protein, high fiber diets. Willow leaves comprised a significant portion of the diet during the winter. While dietary overlap with cattle is significant, bison may be more likely to use shrubby vegetation during winter periods.

Bison behavior may also provide a degree of spatial separation in ranges used in conjunction with cattle. Nelson (1965) found bison behavior helps limit their direct impact on domestic livestock. First, Nelson found that bison seldom remained in an area longer than 3 consecutive days during the summer growing season. While they did exhibit preferred areas during various seasons, bison were "almost constantly on the move and do not remain in an area until the plants are completely utilized" as domestic cattle are known

to do. Bison on traditional winter ranges were noted to be more sedentary. Second, he reported that free ranging bison did not remain at water sources for extended periods and appeared to have lower water needs than domestic cattle. He noted that bison would water then move off – "…and little time was spent at watering holes." Finally, Nelson also noted that while bison spent most of their time foraging in less steep areas, they did utilize rougher and more broken country than cattle.

Van Vuren (1979) observed similar habits in the Henry Mountains. When comparing habitat use by bison and cattle, he found that over 56 percent of all summer observations of feeding bison were over 10,000 feet, compared to 10 percent of feeding cattle. Both cattle and bison used relatively level areas to graze, but cattle did so more than bison. For example, 65% of bison observations exceeded 21 degrees slope, compared to only 32% of cattle observations. Bison also fed a greater horizontal distance from water than cattle, and cattle grazed in greater numbers in the proximity of water than did bison.

Ranglack and du Toit (2015a) found bison and cattle spatial distributions on the Henry Mountains showed relatively little overlap (29%) because bison used steeper slopes and higher elevations than cattle, which remained close to water sources. These results also align with a concurrent study done by other USU researchers (Ware et al. 2014). Ware et al. (2014) stated that "Although bison and cattle diets are similar, their spatial-temporal use of the landscape varies greatly. Cattle tend to concentrate in areas where water and shade are available, whereas bison are restricted less by these factors (Plumb & Dodd, 1993; Van Vuren 2001; Ware et al., 2014). The behavior that bison exhibit naturally extends grazing beyond that of cattle (Fuhlendorf & Engle, 2001; Ware et al., 2014)." Additionally, in the Henry Mountains, bison caused only modest reductions in forage availability for cattle and that cattle faced more significant forage challenges from lagomorphs than from bison in the study area (Ranglack et al. 2015). Despite these beneficial behavioral differences in free roaming bison, their population distribution will largely determine the degree of direct forage competition with livestock. Hunting can be an effective tool to limit the size of bison groups that may develop conflicting habits. However, Nelson suggested providing salt and periodically harassing bison to encourage movement to areas less competitive with cattle. He also reported that Henry Mountain bison were sensitive to disturbance.

Bison will also share some dietary overlap with elk. As with livestock, bison population distribution will determine the overall competitive overlap with elk. The same management considerations previously discussed for bison and livestock would also apply to elk.

Dietary overlap of bison and mule deer is less but could conceivably occur on shared winter ranges; especially if heavy and severe winters rendered grass forage unavailable to bison. The balance between various wild ungulate populations will be determined through

individual species management plans for the herd unit. These are reviewed and approved through the public RAC and wildlife board process and involve public input and discussion. Vegetation, watershed and habitat monitoring will help form the basis for the future population objective recommendations of each species.

Wildlife forage allocations present under the BLM's Resource Management Plan (RMP) in addition to SITLA grazing permits in DWR ownership and DWR administered Wildlife Management Area fee title lands provide a sufficient forage base for big game. The cooperatively achieved goals of the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative partners have presented a means to offer a public bison resource opportunity in conjunction with other big game resources. Should future grazing and forage competition issues arise, the Division is committed to addressing them. Continued rangeland work will help address any issues that arise with a particular focus on chaining, mastication, and burning pinyon–juniper woodland - remote from watering points (Ranglack and du Toit 2015b). Cooperative range and habitat improvement projects of which the Division has been a major participant have been completed or proposed on over 200,000 terrestrial acres and over 800 aquatic/riparian acres in the past 20 years (Figure 3). Appendix B provides a table of rangeland projects completed and proposed from 2005 through 2025.

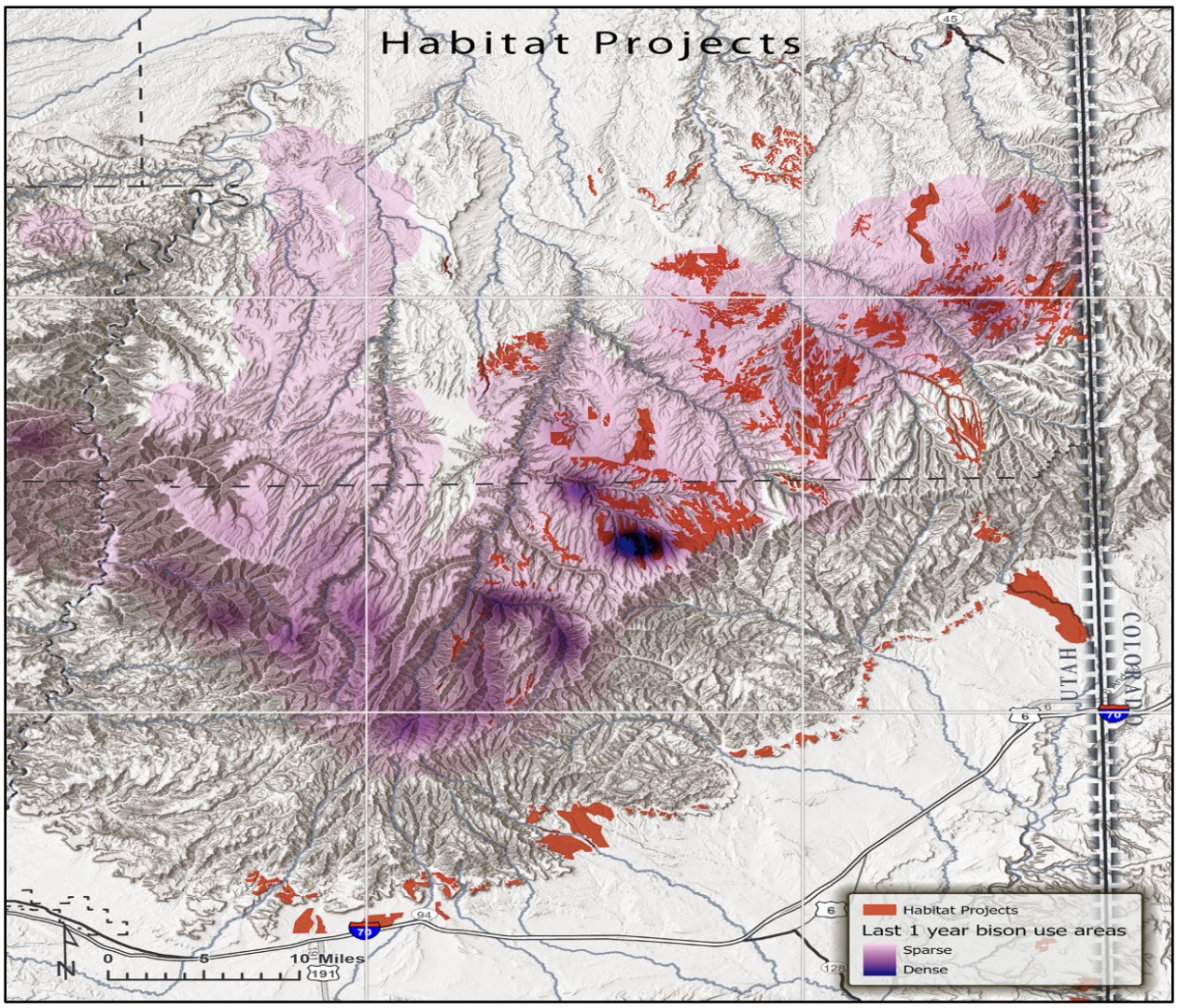

Figure 3. Habitat projects completed for the benefit of bison overlaid with recent bison use areas.

Agricultural Depredation

Fortunately, from the standpoint of bison management, the Book Cliffs have few opportunities for extensive agricultural crop damage. Aside from rangelands, private agricultural fields that are irrigated and harvested are currently limited to the lower Willow Creek Drainage. Harvested crops are currently grass hay, which are either cut, baled, and hauled off or left standing as livestock pasture forage. Elk depredation occurs in these areas, and any complaints are addressed through stack yard fencing, payments for damages, or mitigation type hunting opportunities. Landowners also have opportunity for compensation by selling buck deer and bull elk hunting permits within the Book Cliffs Landowners Association and Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit programs. Bison that

currently use the Willow Creek drainage have utilized agricultural fields to some extent. However, their visits have generally not been of such impact or long duration to elicit heavy complaints. If agricultural depredation issues arise, they will continue to be addressed under the Utah State Code, DWR policy, and established guidelines. The Division also owns agricultural fields in Bitter Creek, Willow Creek and Meadow Creek that were procured under the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative. While agricultural sharecrop agreements are utilized in some areas, these lands are dedicated for wildlife use.

Population Dynamics

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, Van Vuren and Bray (1986) estimated the natural survival of bison on the Henry Mountains at 95% for unmarked males ≥ 2 years of age, 96% for unmarked females ≥ 2 years of age, and 94% for unmarked calves using life table methods. More recent research by Utah State University from 2011 to 2014 based on GPS and VHF radio collars estimated annual survival probability for HM bison that are ≥ 1.5 years of age = 0.982 (95% C.I. 0.966 to 0.998, Koons and du Toit 2015). In addition, USU found no evidence for differences in survival across years, age, or sex classes. USU did not attempt to estimate annual calf survival rates. Additionally, due to the low number of natural mortalities (only 5 collared animals in 4 years), it is not possible to accurately assess differences in natural mortality causes. Regardless, in the Henry Mountains, bison appear to be quite robust with very high annual survival and minimal natural mortality, with most mortality due to regulated hunting. Given the proximity and similarity in habitat types, annual bison survival on the Book Cliffs is expected to be similarly high for all sex and age classes with minimal natural mortality.

Given the high survival rates, bison populations in Utah are more likely driven by variation in calving rates and calf recruitment than adult survival. Indeed, when exploring various metrics explaining historic population variations, researchers at Utah State University found the model allowing for temporal variation in both fecundity and juvenile survival, constant sex-specific adult survival, and an age of primiparity (AP) equal to three best predicted historic population dynamics. Additionally, Koons et al. (2012) found that 1-year lagged annual precipitation had a positive effect on recruitment. A further analysis by Koons et al. (2015) revealed early spring temperatures also had a positive but lagged effect on population growth, which was much stronger than effects of precipitation and other temperature related variables. Presumably, the lagged effects of spring temperature and precipitation affect vegetative growth and/or animal nutritional condition, which in turn may influence adult pregnancy rates and milk production, as well as juvenile birth weights and survival rates. Although relatively weak, population density was found to have a

negative effect on bison population growth on the Henry Mountains, and this effect seemed to be more severe during drier conditions (Koons et al. 2012, Koons et al. 2015).

As mentioned previously, currently natural mortality sources are not limiting bison populations in Utah. This is particularly true when examining impacts from large mammalian predators. Although bison predation by mountain lions, black bears, and coyotes has been documented in the literature, none are considered to be a significant threat to bison herds. However, wolves, although not currently present in Utah, do have the potential to kill bison (Smith et al. 2000, MacNulty et al. 2014). Wolf populations in states north of Utah have been expanding, and Colorado recently reintroduced wolves in 2023. The Utah Wolf Management Plan was drafted and will guide any future management potential for this species.

Recreation and Aesthetics

Outdoor recreational activities have increased dramatically over the past two decades. Types of human related recreation in bison habitat include backcountry travel, mountain biking, ATV use, horseback riding, shed antler gathering, camping, backpacking, hiking, trail races, hunting of big game, cougar and bear, and others. Another popular activity has been outdoor educational schools that take large groups of youth into the backcountry to learn survival and leadership skills.

Part of the mission of the Division of Wildlife Resources is to manage protected wildlife for its intrinsic, scientific, educational and recreational values. Wildlife management, including bison, certainly benefits from and adds to many recreational activities. Broad-based public support is realized when individuals or groups have the opportunity to observe or photograph bison in a wild setting. Funding for management is derived from the sale of hunting permits. Each year, the Division issues conservation permits to conservation groups who sell the permits to the highest bidder. These funds are used to enhance habitat or fund special projects, such as transplants or research. Bison population size is controlled through hunting and is an integral part of protecting fragile range resources.

Preserving and maintaining the primitive western aura and mystique of the Book Cliffs was one of the integral goals driving the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative at its inception in 1990 (UDWR et al. 1990). Inclusive in the concept of the Initiative was to "… assure public access and recreational opportunities for future generations. Establish the Book Cliffs, within the Vernal District of the BLM, as a multiple use showcase area. The intent is to demonstrate a management commitment to the area's unique ecological values." The

Initiative proposal also emphasized increased wildlife density and diversity of which bison were specifically included. The Initiative was developed as a publicly involved cooperative venture from the outset with as many goals and objectives as could be envisioned, briefly written and defined. Public acceptance and support is profound as evidenced by initial success in achieving habitat acquisition goals and in the continued economic growth, habitat improvement, and enhanced resource management emphasis.

A healthy bison population in balance with other multiple-use natural resources will add to all aspects of outdoor recreation in the Book Cliffs.

UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. **Population Management Goal:** Manage a publicly owned bison herd within the Book Cliffs big game management unit. Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of public use opportunities, including sustainable harvest and viewing. Balance the bison population with human needs, such as authorized livestock grazing permits, private land development rights and local economies. Maintain the population at a level that is within the long-term habitat capability.

Objective 1: Work toward achieving a postseason population size of 650 adult (age 1+) bison distributed across the Bitter Creek (250), Little Creek and South (400) subunits of the Book Cliffs Wildlife Management Unit.

Strategies:

1. Conduct helicopter surveys to monitor herd distribution and growth.
2. Conduct annual ground classification counts to determine annual calf production and bull:cow ratios.
3. Utilize population modeling or estimates derived from research or surveys to estimate post-season herd size.
4. Utilize public hunting as the principal population management tool.
5. Utilize the United States Drought Monitor (https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu) to make temporary adjustments in the bison population size depending on drought severity and range conditions. If drought-related conditions and bison densities

negatively impact habitat, recommend additional bison permits to the Wildlife Board.

6. Collect blood and other biological samples from hunter-harvested bison to monitor for disease and take necessary actions to maintain brucellosis-free status in compliance with Department of Agriculture guidelines.
7. Conduct law enforcement efforts to minimize illegal take of bison.
8. Address agricultural depredation problems consistent with state code and DWR policy.
9. Maintain working collars within the herd to monitor survival.
10. Monitor disease indicators such as mortalities, low birth rates, and population decline in the herd and address as needed.

Objective 2: Maintain a ratio of 50 bulls per 100 cows to ensure older age class bulls remain in the population.

Strategies:

1. Conduct annual ground classification counts during the rut to determine bull:cow ratio.
2. Use a combination of hunter's choice and cow only permits and removal of animals for transplant to maintain desired bull:cow ratio.
3. Require cow only permit holders to complete an orientation course each year to educate them on how to properly identify the sex of the animal.

B. **Habitat Management Goal:** Provide quality habitat to establish and maintain a healthy bison population in the Book Cliffs.

Objective 1: Maintain or improve sufficient bison habitat to allow herds to reach population objectives.

Strategies:

1. Identify critical bison use areas and work with land managers and private landowners to improve or maintain habitat quality in these areas.
2. Support cooperative agreements between agricultural producers and other management interests to help minimize utilization impacts by all ungulates and to better manage range resources.
3. Utilize the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative to prioritize and fund range and resource improvement and development on areas utilized by bison. The Division may assist by providing materials or manpower when available.
4. Work with stakeholders to minimize the negative impacts of feral horses and cattle.

Objective 2: Achieve bison population distribution that effectively utilizes available habitat and minimizes conflict.

Strategies:

1. Utilize the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative to improve forage quality throughout bison range in order to encourage herd distribution.
2. Address all depredation problems in a timely and efficient manner.
3. Develop and maintain water sources in areas that will improve herd distribution.
4. Utilize strategic and focused public hunting pressure to prevent habitat overutilization and to move bison from areas of conflict.
5. Maintain working GPS collars within the herd to help better understand spatial use patterns.
6. In cooperation with the BLM and SITLA, work with livestock operators to consider realignment of grazing allotments to improve distribution of both cattle and bison.
7. Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions and strive for mutually beneficial management strategies.

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Appendix A

2024 Book Cliffs bison unit management plan committee members and representation.

Wade Garrett - Farm Bureau

Trisha Hedin - Elected Official

Kent Johnson - Wildlife Board

Troy Justensen - Sportsmen

Clay McKeachnie - Rancher

Alesha Melton - Sportsmen

Jason Mountainlion - Ute Tribe

Kevin Richins - Sportsmen

Clint Sampson - DWR

Slate Stewart - SITLA

Terrell Thayne - Agriculture

Ben Williams – BLM

Appendix B

Habitat treatments for benefit of bison since 2005.

Project	Terrestrial Acres	Riparian Acres
McCook/Monument Fire	6,000.00	-
Diamond Fire Reseeding	88,000.00	-
Horse Pt. Lop/Scatter	900.00	-
Bitter Creek Greasewood Treatment	450.00	-
N Wolf Pt Lop/Scatter	2,000.00	-
Big Park Phase 2, 3, 4 Lop/Scatter	3,000.00	-
Horse Pasture Lop/Scatter	650.00	-
Big Park Lop and Scatter	1,010.40	-
McCook Ridge P/J Removal	794.43	-
Monument Ridge PJ Removal	1,003.71	-
Seep/Winter Ridge P-J Removal	734.20	-
V-Canyon Ridges Lop and Scatter Project	1,065.49	-
Wolf Point Lop and Scatter	810.75	-
Blue Knoll Lop and Scatter	1,091.16	-
Indian Springs Ridge Bullhog	320.01	-
McCook Ridge Phase II P/J removal	538.93	-
Meadow Creek Low Whitetop Control	117.04	-
North Big Park Lop and Scatter	944.57	-
Winter Ridge Phase III Lop and Scatter	1,987.97	-
Winter Ridge-Little Asphalt P-J Removal	673.42	-
Wolf Point Phase II P/J Removal	1,322.67	-
Agency Draw Lop and Scatter	2,347.55	-
Blue Knoll Phase 2	1,999.26	-
Indian Ridge Lop and Scatter	1,000.71	-
Three Pines Lop and Scatter	1,942.58	-
Winter Ridge Bullhog	474.08	-
Big Park Plateau Project	140.60	-
Blind Canyon Fire Rehabilitation	2,131.91	-
Cedar Camp Lop and Scatter	2,041.83	-
Cherry Mesa Bullhog	575.81	-
Indian Springs Bullhog Phase 2	351.26	-
Johnson Draw Chaining	81.49	-
McCook Ridge Cheatgrass Control	384.13	-
McCoy Reservoir Lop and Scatter	1,059.68	-
Park Ridge Bullhog	497.65	-
Pine Springs Bullhog	554.75	-
Archy Bench P-J Project	1,121.62	-
Augusi Canyon Fire Rehabilitation	955.38	-

Big Park Sagebrush	64.83	-
McCook Ridge Bullhog FY11	498.14	-
Monument Ridge Bullhog - FY2011	503.67	-
Park Ridge Bullhog Phase II	498.06	-
Rock Spring/Cherry Mesa Lop and Scatter	716.56	-
Rock Springs Bullhog	553.03	-
Seep Ridge Bullhog	203.87	-
Upper McCook Lop and Scatter	603.49	-
Archy Bench Sagebrush Restoration	606.87	-
Boulevard Ridge Pinyon and Juniper Removal	392.25	-
Buck Camp Canyon P-J Project	212.79	-
Indian Ridge Sagebrush	224.04	-
Moonshine Ridge Mountain Browse Enhancement	361.06	-
Seep Ridge Bullhog Phase II	389.87	-
Seep Ridge Chaining	321.86	-
Atchee Ridge Lop and Scatter Phase II	483.30	-
Bottom Canyon Bullhog Phase II	415.80	-
Cedar Camp Lop and Scatter Phase II	869.62	-
Moonshine Bullhog Phase II	619.59	-
Seep Ridge Phase II/Bullhog Maintenance	729.03	-
Wolf Den - Rector Ridge Fire Rehabilitation	2,228.82	-
Wolf Den Fire-Rainbow	525.52	-
Indian Springs Bullhog Maintenance	610.22	-
Jack Trap Canyon	334.39	-
Little Jim Bullhog	668.77	-
Moon Ridge Chaining	540.88	-
Moonshine Bullhog Phase III	426.24	-
Park Ridge Bullhog Maintenance	474.04	-
Pine Springs Bullhog Phase II	494.83	-
She Canyon Stream Restoration	-	29.69
Steer Ridge Lop and Scatter	566.19	-
Tom Patterson Rx Line Preparation	47.49	-
White River Russian Olive Removal	48.47	-
Burnt Timber Bullhog	648.96	-
Indian Spring Phase I Maintenance	319.40	-
Red Leaf Reclamation	0.32	-
White River Enhancement Project	-	122.91
Burnt Timber Bullhog Phase II	441.84	-
Meadow Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration	-	6.74
Monument Ridge Bullhog Phase I & II	1,010.90	-
Monument Ridge Slashing	1,019.70	-
Moon Ridge Chaining Maintenance	692.27	-
Seep Ridge Chaining Maintenance	332.49	-
Book Cliffs Bison Habitat Enhancement	1,006.26	-

Book Cliffs Divide Lop and Scatter	2,684.47	-
Boulevard Ridge Pinyon and Juniper Removal	932.17	-
Meadow Creek Riparian Restoration FY2018	-	15.40
White River Enhancement Project Phase 2	92.12	-
White River Enhancement Project Phase 3	241.11	-
Book Cliffs Weed Treatments	1,091.48	-
Monument Ridge Bullhog II	2,081.02	-
Augusi Bullhog	691.94	-
Book Cliffs Bison Habitat Enhancement Cherry Mesa	499.81	-
Monument Ridge Bullhog III	993.31	-
Pine Springs Forest Health	137.84	-
Pine Springs Ponderosa	74.35	-
White River Enhancement Project Phase 4	-	15.11
Willow Creek WMA Aquatic/Terrestrial Improvement	38.67	7.15
Weed Inventory and Treatment	12,102.64	-
White River Enhancement Project Phase 5	-	16.54
White River Enhancement Project Phase 6	-	44.57
Book Cliffs Tamarisk Control (Phase 1)	217.44	-
Book Cliffs West Water Developments/Spike Treatment	461.14	-
East Willow BDAs and Guzzlers	-	18.89
Pine Springs Ponderosa II	200.24	-
Seep Ridge Maintenance Lop & Scatter	8,304.54	-
White River Enhancement Project Phase 7	-	20.53
Willow Creek BDAs and Wet Mowing Phase 2	147.50	7.35
Indian Spring and Augusi Bullhog	501.73	-
South Book Cliffs Phase 10 (San Arroyo Bullhog)	655.85	-
Tom Patterson Herbicide	2,297.74	-
Willow Watershed Improvements FY2023	3,810.50	30.30
Monument Wildfire Rehab - Seeding	51.39	-
Willow Watershed Improvements FY2024	1,218.34	187.41
Lower White River Conservation, Restoration,	-	68.53
Weed Inventory and Herbicide Treatment FY24	2,081.02	-
Willow Watershed Habitat Improvements FY25	25.22	-
Lower White River Conservation, Restoration,	-	9.93
Bitter Creek Habitat Restoration Project	30.46	-
Agency Draw Lop & Scatter 2025	3,468.21	-
Bitter Creek Cutthroat Trout/Riparian Improvement	-	9.78
Book Cliffs Wildlife Habitat Improvements	1,811.80	189.61
Tom Patterson Mastication	3,651.77	-
Winter Ridge FY 25	6,853.58	-
Monument Wildfire Shrub Seeding	94.82	-
Total	**210,324.99**	**800.44**

SPENCER J. COX
Governor
DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JOEL FERRY
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
RILEY PECK
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

DATE: Oct 21, 2025

SUBJECT: Amendments to R657-42 - Natural Disaster Relief

Recent natural disasters, particularly wildfires, have prompted the division to consider relief options to hunters impacted by these types of events, both locally and nationally.

The DWR recommends adding language to R657-42 that allows the division to offer relief options to hunters when natural disasters affect their ability to hunt or access to their hunting unit.

For the purpose of this rule, natural disasters will be defined as:

- Wildfire
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Land/mudslide
- Hurricane
- Tornado
- Tsunami
- Volcanic eruption

If a natural disaster displaces a hunter from their home or significantly impedes their travel, the division may offer them the following options:

- Reinstate their bonus or preference points
- Waive their waiting period, if applicable
- Refund their permit fee, minus a $25 processing fee

To be eligible, the permit holder must be completely or substantially precluded (or prevented) from participating in the hunting activity and must:

- Fill out an application
- Submit the application to the Division within 30 days of the last day of the hunting season listed on their permit
- And include the following supporting documentation with their application:
    - Documentation of the natural disaster
    - A notarized statement with supporting documents, explaining how the disaster resulted in the hunter's displacement or inability to travel, or how it substantially precluded them from hunting

- The wildlife document (hunting permit, etc.) related to the relief request

If a natural disaster affects a hunting unit, the division director will be authorized to grant relief if all of the following criteria are met:

- More than 50% of hunting opportunities are unavailable
- Access to more than 50% of public land within an individual hunt unit has been closed due to administrative actions of the state or federal government

If these criteria are met, the division director is authorized to offer one or more of the following types of relief:

- Reinstate bonus or preference points
- Waive the waiting period, if applicable
- Refund the permit fee, minus the $25 processing fee
- Extend the hunting opportunity (for the same season and unit) to the subsequent year

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.
R657-42. Fees, Exchanges, Surrenders, Refunds, and Reallocation of Wildlife Documents.
R657-42-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23A-4-201 and 23A-4-207 the division may issue wildlife documents in accordance with the rules of the Wildlife Board.

(2) This rule provides the standards and procedures for the:

(a) exchange of permits;

(b) surrender of wildlife documents;

(c) refund of wildlife documents;

(d) reallocation of permits; and

(e) assessment of late fees.

R657-42-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23A-1-101 and the applicable rules and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Alternate drawing lists" means a list of persons who have not already drawn a permit and would have been the next person in line to draw a permit.

(b) "CWMU" means cooperative wildlife management unit.

(c) "Deployed or mobilized" means that a person provides military or emergency services in the interest of national defense or national emergency pursuant to the demand, request, or order of their employer.

(d) "General season permit" means any:

(i) bull elk, buck deer, or turkey permit identified in the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board as a general season permit;

(ii) antlerless permit for elk, deer, or pronghorn antelope; or

(e) "Landowner association operator" for purposes of this rule, means:

(i) a landowner association or any of its members eligible to receive limited entry landowner permits as provided in Rule R657-43; or

(ii) CWMU - landowner association or its designated operator as provided in Rule R657-37.

(f) "Limited entry permit" means any permit, including a CWMU, conservation, expo, sportsman, or limited entry landowner permit, identified in the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board as limited entry or premium limited entry for the following;

(i) bull elk, buck deer, buck pronghorn, bear, or turkey; and

(ii) antlerless moose.

(g) “Natural disaster” means a naturally occurring event listed below that causes significant damage and impacts a person’s ability to use a permitted opportunity:

(i) Wildfire;

(ii) Earthquake;

(iii) Flood;

(iv) Land/mudslide

(v) Hurricane;

(vi) Tornado;

(vii) Tsunami; or

(viii) Volcanic Eruption.

(hg) "Once-in-a-lifetime permit" means any permit, including a CWMU, conservation, expo, sportsman, or limited entry landowner permit, identified in the guidebooks of the Wildlife Board as once-in-a-lifetime for the following:

(i) bison, bull moose, Rocky Mountain goat; and

(ii) desert bighorn sheep, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

(i) "Substantially precluded" means participating in no more than one hunt day during the prescribed hunting season because of a qualifying natural disaster event or condition

(jh) "Wildlife document" means any license, permit, tag, or certificate of registration issued by the division.

R657-42-12. Natural Disaster Relief

(1) The Division may grant relief for natural disasters that result in the displacement of a permitted hunter from their residence or significantly impede their travel.

(2) The Division may grant relief to individuals whose participation in a hunting activity authorized by an eligible wildlife document is completely or substantially precluded during the designated season due to a natural disaster that directly impacts the permit holder.

(3) A person may request relief pursuant to the requirements of Subsections 1 and 2 by filing an application with the division within 30 days of the last day of the hunting season that is listed on their permit.

(4) Under Sections 1 and 2, the hunter must provide documentation of the natural disaster occurring, along with a notarized statement with supporting documentation explaining how the disaster resulted in their displacement, significantly impeded travel, or substantially precluded them from hunting.

(5) The following types of relief may be granted under Subsections (1) and (2) after approval, and upon furnishing a surrendered permit:

(a) reinstate bonus or preference points;

(b) waive the waiting period, if applicable; and

(c) refund of the permit fee minus the processing fee.

(6) In the event a natural disaster affects a hunt unit, the division director is authorized to grant relief if the following criteria are met:

(a) More than 50% of hunting opportunities are unavailable; and

(b) Access to more than 50% of public land within an individual hunt unit has been closed due to administrative actions of the state or federal government in restricting public access to such lands.

(7) If the criteria outlined in Subsection (6) are met, the division director is authorized to grant one or more of the following types of relief:

(a) reinstate bonus or preference points;

(b) waive the waiting period, if applicable;

(c) refund of the permit fee minus the processing fee; and

(d) extend the hunting opportunity to the subsequent year for the same season and unit.

(8) Under Subsections (6) and (7), the hunter will be required to follow any instructions given by the division director in order to receive the relief described in Subsection (7).

KEY: wildlife, permits

Date of Last Change: August 21, 2024
Notice of Continuation: March 15, 2023
Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23A-4-201; 23A-4-207; 23A-4-301

SPENCER J. COX
Governor
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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
JOEL FERRY
Executive Director
Division of Wildlife Resources
Riley Peck
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Darren DeBloois, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

DATE: Oct 14, 2025

SUBJECT: 2026 Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) and Landowner Association (LOA) permit recommendations

The following is a summary of the 2026 CWMU recommendations for bucks and bulls. There are three types of applications the DWR receives for CWMUs: renewal new and change applications.

The DWR received **23** CWMU applications for 2026 and recommends:

- 15 CWMUs were up for renewal
- 2 new applications, recommended for approval
- 6 change applications, recommended for approval

There will be a total of 133 CWMUs for the 2026 hunting season, based on the DWR's recommendations. The following table summarizes the recommended number of CWMU permits statewide for bucks, bulls and turkeys that need approval:

Species	Private	Public
Bull elk	205	33
Buck pronghorn	53	41
Buck deer	307	36
Bull moose	11	9
Turkey	6	6
Total	**582**	**125**

1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110, PO Box 146301, Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301
telephone (801) 538-4700 □ facsimile (801) 538-4709 □ TTY (801) 538-7458 □ *www.wildlife.utah.gov*

UTAH DNR WILDLIFE RESOURCES

There are no renewing, new or changing LOAs for 2026

If any Board or RAC Members would like additional information, or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Darren DeBloois
801-560-4461
darrendebloois@utah.gov

Region	CWMU	Species	Sex	Hunt Nbr	First Year	Rec Private	Rec Public	Rec Hunt Date	Rec Ratio	COR Type	Acres Private	Acres Public	Unit	County	Private Antlerless	Public Antlerless	Notes
CRO	Allen Ranch	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5325	2026	2	2	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	6479	0	19C	Utah	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 2:2, 2027 1:2, 2028 2:2
CRO	Milburn	Deer	Buck		2026	9	1	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	New	8540	0	16B	Sanpete	0	0	
NERO	Cottonwood Ridge	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5327	2026	6	4	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	7916	0	11A	Duchesne	4	6	Permits Private:Public - 2026 6:4, 2027 6:4, 2028 6:4
NERO	The Dirty Dozen	Deer	Buck		2024	11	2	9/01 - 10/31	90:10	Change	14468.76	0	9C	Uintah	0	0	Change name from Diamond Mountain
NERO	The Dirty Dozen	Elk	Bull		2024	9	1	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Change	14468.76	0	9C	Uintah	0	10	Change name from Diamond Mountain
NRO	Beaver Hollow	Moose	Bull		2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	New	15000	0	4	Morgan	0	1	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 1:1, 2028 1:0 (Cow Moose 2027 1:1, 2028 1:1)
NRO	Cedar Springs	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5326	2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	32646	0	1	Box Elder	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 1:1, 2028 1:0
NRO	Deseret	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5302	2024	38	29	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Change	225228	15359	4	Rich	0	0	Adding 30 pemits for 2026 due to higher production. Renewal for 2027
NRO	Dry Creek	Deer	Buck	DB1341	2026	9	1	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Renewal	6774.44	0	6	Summit	0	0	
NRO	Ensign Ranches	Elk	Bull	EB3519	2024	24	6	09/01 - 11/30	80:20	Change	82246	0	6	Summit	32	48	Changing the splits for next year for bull elk and antlerless elk and adding 2 public bull tags and 2 private bull tags. Bull elk splits will go from 85:15 to 80:20. Antlerless elk splits will go from 25:75 to 40:60. This will result in 32 private antlerless permits and 48 public antlerless permits.
NRO	Faust Valley	Deer	Buck	DB1342	2026	6	1	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Renewal	5029	0	1	Box Elder	0	0	
NRO	Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	Deer	Buck	DB1242	2026	126	14	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	56873	0	6	Summit	0	0	
NRO	Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	Elk	Bull	EB3521	2026	90	10	09/01 - 11/30	90:10	Renewal	56873	0	6	Summit	0	50	
NRO	Grass Valley/Clark Canyon	Moose	Bull	MB6211	2026	5	4	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	56873	0	6	Summit	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 5:4, 2027 5:3, 2028 5:3
NRO	Hardscrabble	Deer	Buck	DB1246	2026	18	2	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Renewal	17011	0	5	Morgan	0	0	
NRO	Hardscrabble	Elk	Bull	EB3524	2026	18	2	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	17011	0	5	Morgan	0	5	
NRO	Hardscrabble	Moose	Bull	MB6251	2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	17011	0	5	Morgan	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 2:1, 2028 1:1
NRO	Ingham Peak	Deer	Buck	DB1252	2026	29	3	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Renewal	16482	4160	1	Box Elder	0	0	
NRO	Ingham Peak	Elk	Bull	EB3528	2026	5	1	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	16482	4160	1	Box Elder	0	0	
NRO	Ingham Peak	Moose	Bull	MB6257	2026	1	0	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	16482	4160	1	Box Elder	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:0, 2027 0:1, 2028 1:0 (Cycle from last COR which was 0:1, 1:0, 0:1)
NRO	Jacob's Creek	Deer	Buck	DB1317	2026	18	2	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	13850.38	0	5	Morgan	0	0	
NRO	Jacob's Creek	Elk	Bull	EB3530	2026	18	2	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	13850.38	0	5	Morgan	0	0	
NRO	Jacob's Creek	Moose	Bull	MB6258	2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	13850.38	0	5	Morgan	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 2:1, 2028 1:1
NRO	Mountain Top	Deer	Buck	DB1265	2026	18	2	09/01- 10/31	90:10	Renewal	8900	0	5	Summit	0	0	
NRO	Salt Wells	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5342	2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	7803	0	1	Box Elder	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 1:1, 2028 1:0
NRO	Skull Crack	Moose	Bull	MB6219	2024	2	2	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Change	27961	0	4	Weber	0	0	Drop 1 private bull permit in 2026. Renewal for 2027.
NRO	TL Bar Ranch	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5312	2026	1	1	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	4540	640	1	Box Elder	0	0	Permits Private:Public - 2026 1:1, 2027 1:1, 2028 1:1
SERO	Blackhawk	Deer	Buck	DB1208	2025	9	2	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Change	21931.89	200	16B	Carbon	0	0	Add 1 private buck tag and extend bull elk season to 12/15. Additional buck and bull tag for public acres compensation. Permits don't change in 2026-27
SERO	Indian Head	Elk	Bull	EB3527	2024	14	2	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Change	22744	1130	17C	Carbon	0	12	Proposing an increase of 6 bull tags to 14 private and 2 public.
SERO	Minnie Maud Ridge	Deer	Buck	DB1261	2026	45	5	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	16890	0	11B	Carbon	0	0	
SERO	Minnie Maud Ridge	Elk	Bull	EB3536	2026	40	5	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	16890	0	11B	Carbon	0	16	
SERO	Patmos Ridge	Elk	Bull	EB3541	2024	9	1	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Change	10747	0	11B	Carbon	0	0	Adding 4 private bull elk tags to be used primarily in the reciprocal agreement program and donated to other participating CWMU's for use with non-profit organizations. It is highly unlikely that this will result in any additional harvest on this CWMU.
SERO	Redd Ranches	Elk	Bull	EB3544	2026	17	2	09/01- 10/31	90:10	Renewal	18912	76	13A	San Juan	0	35	
SRO	Pahvant Ensign	Deer	Buck	DB1322	2026	9	1	09/11 - 11/10	90:10	Renewal	37635	0	21B	Millard	0	0	
SRO	Pahvant Ensign	Elk	Bull	EB3603	2026	6	1	09/01 - 10/31	90:10	Renewal	37635	0	21B	Millard	0	6	
SRO	Pahvant Ensign	Pronghorn	Buck	PB5328	2026	4	3	09/01 - 10/31	60:40	Renewal	37635	0	21B	Millard	4	6	Permits Private:Public - 2026 4:3, 2027 4:3, 2028 4:2
SRO	Pahvant Ensign	Turkey	Bearded	TK1018	2026	6	6	2nd Saturday in April - May 31st	50:50	Renewal	37635	0	21B	Millard	0	0	

Permits are annual. See notes any annual variations