

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 4, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtube.com/live/PB0dsu8Fmlo>

Thursday, December 4, 2025 – 9:00 am

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|--|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Paula Richmond, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Riley Peck, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. 2025-2027 Hunt Tables and Season Dates Revisions
– Sam Robertson, Northern Region Wildlife Biologist | ACTION |
| 6. Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan
– Clint Sampson, Northeastern Region Wildlife Biologist | ACTION |
| 7. R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations
– Darren DeBloois, Public Lands Private Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Blackhawk CWMU and Hiawatha CWMU Variance Recommendations
– Darren DeBloois, Public Lands Private Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Other Business
– Gary Nielson, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Action Log

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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Use of Aerial Equipment

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Private Landowner Vouchers/point loss and waiting periods

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

September 18, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/PB0dsu8Fmlo>

Thursday, September 18, 2025, 9:00 am

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda | ACTION |
| – Gary Nielson, Chairman | |
| 2. Approval of Minutes | ACTION |
| – Gary Nielson, Chairman | |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log | CONTINGENT |
| – Paula Richmond, Vice-Chair | |
| 4. DWR Update | INFORMATIONAL |
| – Riley Peck, DWR Director | |
| 5. Statewide Angler Survey Results | INFORMATIONAL |
| – Craig Walker, Assistant Chief of Fisheries | |
| 6. Blue Ribbon Economic Survey Results | INFORMATIONAL |
| – Trina Hedrick, Coldwater Sportfish Coordinator | |
| 7. SER Big Game Management Plans | ACTION |
| – Dustin Mitchell, Southeastern Wildlife Manager | |
| 8. Mid-plan Review – Mountain Goat and Bighorn Sheep | ACTION |
| – Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator | |
| 9. Conservation Permit Audit | ACTION |
| – Sarah Scott, Financial Manager | |
| 10. Conservation Permit Annual Report | ACTION |
| – Dax Mangus, Assistant Wildlife Section Chief | |
| 11. Expo Permit Audit | ACTION |
| – Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | |
| 12. Expo Permit Allocation | ACTION |
| – Dax Mangus, Assistant Wildlife Section Chief | |
| 13. 2026 RAC/Board Meeting Dates | ACTION |
| – Staci Coons, Assistant Wildlife Board Coordinator | |
| 14. Other Business | CONTINGENT |
| – Gary Nielson, Chairman | |

*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.*

Wildlife Board Action Log

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

Fall 2025 – Target Date – “Destination Water bodies” List

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to create a list of “Destination water bodies” throughout the state. This list will determine which fishery management plans are presented statewide and which may be presented to only the local RAC. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Randy Oplinger
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: September 21, 2023

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Spearfishing

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to study the possibilities of increased opportunities for spearfishing and to look at the impact spearfishing on fisheries in Utah may have. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson
Assigned to: Trina Hedrick
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: September 19, 2024

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Use of Aerial Equipment

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into the use of aerial equipment for hunting and retrieval of game. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Bryce Thurgood
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Sheep Hunts due to disease outbreak

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at procedures of how to contact/notify hunters when a hunt is available due to a lone sheep/disease outbreak. This is to be added to the Action Log, and the division is to report back to the board.

Motion made by: Gary Nielson
Assigned to: Rusty Robinson
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

Fall 2025 – Target Date – Private Landowner Vouchers/point loss and waiting periods

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into private landowner vouchers in relation to losing points and incurring waiting periods. The proposal is to be brought to the board as an informational item prior to presenting it through the public process. (RACs). This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson

Assigned to: Lindy Varney

Action: Under study

Placed on Action Log: May 1, 2025

DRAFT

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
September 18, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S. Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the August 21, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting.

3) SER Big Game Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Chris Robinson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the SER Big Game Management Plan as presented by the Division.

4) Mid-plan Review – Mountain Goat and Bighorn Sheep (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Justin Oliver, seconded by Ryan Foutz and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mid-plan Review for Mountain Goat and Bighorn Sheep as presented by the Division.

5) Conservation Permit Audit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Audit as presented.

6) Conservation Permit Annual Report (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented by the Division.

7) Expo Permit Audit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we accept the Expo Permit Audit as presented by the Division.

8) Expo Permit Allocation (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Justin Oliver, seconded by Ryan Foutz and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Expo Permit Allocation as presented by the Division.

9) 2026 RAC/Board Meeting Dates (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2026 RAC/Board Meeting Dates as presented by the Division.

9) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
September 18, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
Attendance

Wildlife Board

Gary Nielson – Chair	Bob Christensen
Paula Richmond – Vice-Chair	Ryan Foutz
Riley Peck – Executive Secretary	Chris Robinson
	Kent Johnson
	Justin Oliver

RAC Chairs

Central – Brock McMillan
Southern – Kevin Bunnell
Southeastern – Scoot Flannery
(online)
Northeastern – Nathan Crapo
Northern – Brad Buchanan

Division Personnel

Mike Canning	Xaela Walden	Dax Mangus
Blair Stringham	Seth Mager	Kent Hersey
Kenny Johnson	Staci Coons	Miles Hanberg (online)
Chris Wood	Paige Wiren	Dave Beveridge
Rusty Robinson	Hayley Pace	
Dustin Mitchell	David Smedley	
Sarah Scott	Lindy Varney	

Public Present

Troy Justensen	Sierra Nelson
Angie Wonnacott	Wade Garrett
Ray Crow	
Phil Crowley	

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

September 18, 2025, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 S Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=ycDc9mbAbLc&t=6237s>

- 00:12:16** Chairman Nielson called the meeting to order and welcomed the audience. Kent Johnson formally requested a moment of silence in recognition of a recent tragic event; Chairman Nielson reviewed the meeting procedures, and the Board and RAC chairs introduced themselves.
- 00:16:23** **1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Justin Oliver and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda, and the minutes of the August 21, 2025 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:16:48** **2) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Vice-Chair Richmond gave updates on Action Log items, and it was noted that the Division was prepared to report on two of the Action Log items.
Coldwater Sportfish Coordinator Trina Hedrik gave a presentation titled, "Action Log: Destination Waters List."
The Board asked Trina to confirm that Lake Powell was not on the list, and Chairman Nielson asked for clarification on the intent of the creation of the list of destination water bodies.
Assistant Craig Walker presented to the Board a smartphone tool the Division is testing that will collect spearfishing data.
The Board asked where the data would be stored.
- 00:28:57** **3) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director Peck gave updates on the status of the Monroe Canyon Fire, State Fair division building attendance, statewide adult doe survival data, and the intended recipient of the Expo contract, which will begin in 2027.
The Board asked if the Expo contract that will begin in 2027 is the same as the current contract.
- 00:35:26** **4) Statewide Angler Survey Results (Informational)**
Assistant Chief of Fisheries Craig Walker shared highlights of the angler survey results.
- 00:38:49** **Board/RAC Questions**
There were no questions from the Board or RAC chairs.
The Board commended the Division for their efforts in growing and expanding fishing opportunities over the years.

The Board commented on the value of having so many opportunities statewide.

00:42:10 5) Blue Ribbon Economic Survey Results (Informational)

Coldwater Sportfish Coordinator Trina Hedrick summarized the survey results.

00:44:26 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if creating the top fisheries list factors in human population densities, and if the survey separated in-state versus out-of-state survey participants.

00:47:19 6) SER Big Game Management Plans (Action)

Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager Dustin Mitchell provided a brief summary of the presentation that was posted on the board meeting materials page of the division website, and noted that there were three unit population objective changes to the plan that were being brought before the board, which he highlighted.

00:48:49 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if the proposed population objective increases were based on models that show that the deer numbers are already there, and asked what tools the Division uses to try and reach population objectives.

Chairman Nielson commented that, by rule, deer must be managed at or below the population objective, so the objective always has to be higher than a current actual population; otherwise the goal would be to reduce the population.

00:52:24 Public Electronic Comments

Director Peck noted that there were no public comments received online on this agenda.

00:52:41 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed the recommended changes, and also the Central RAC asked the Board an action item explain to the Board where

00:53:25 Public Comments/Division Clarification

There were no public comments submitted on this agenda item.

00:53:26 Board Discussion

The Board voiced appreciation for the how the division is applying data towards mule deer management.

The Central RAC Chairman interjected that their region had an additional motion, which was asking the Board to create an action item to have the Division explain the population model to the Central RAC. Chairman Nielson noted that he had discussed with the Division putting a sample population model online for people to view.

The Board asked if an action item needed to be created for the Central RAC's request. The chairman then asked the Division to share with the Board the different ways the Division could accommodate the Central RAC's request.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Chris Robinson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the SER Big Game Management Plan as presented by the Division.

00:57:03 7) Mid-plan Review – Mountain Goat and Bighorn Sheep (Action)

Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson shared themes and concerns on this agenda item that arose throughout the RAC tour.

00:59:09 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked the Division to explain the potential Boulder Mountain spatial conflict issue that was raised during the RAC tour.

The Board asked the Division to outline what preparation would need to take place prior to translocating bighorn sheep to Boulder Mountain.

01:03:20 Public Electronic Comments

Director Peck summarized the public comment received online.

01:03:52 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:09:27 RAC Recommendations

All RACs voted to accept the plan as presented, with one stipulation from the Southern RAC.

01:10:22 Board Discussion

The Board asked for the reasons for the Southern RAC's dissenting votes, and if a Boulder Mountain plan would go through the public process.

The Board commented on the positive cooperation among stakeholders and recognized the Division's willingness to assume any potential future risk associated with the reintroduction of desert bighorn sheep.

Chairman Nielson voiced appreciation that the Boulder Mountain is on the list of reintroduction areas; the Board praised the Division for committing to take a risk in order to increase desert bighorn sheep populations in Utah, and Chairman Nielson voiced support for the proposed plan.

The following motion was made by Justin Oliver, seconded by Ryan Foutz and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Mid-plan Review for Mountain Goat and Bighorn Sheep as presented by the Division.

01:17:43 8) Conservation Permit Audit (Action)

Financial Manager Sarah Scott gave a presentation that explained the conservation permit structure, funding distribution and audit findings.

01:23:07 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if the Division currently had any outstanding deposits.

01:24:04 Public Electronic Comments

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

01:24:05 Board Discussion

The Board acknowledged the positive impact of Conservation Permit program fund projects, and asked what the total amount of collected fees would be if those same permits were sold through the usual permitting process.

01:25:01 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:27:07 Board Discussion

The Board commented on the benefit to habitat and wildlife of conservation permit projects, and noted that the program is an additional way for an individual to obtain a permit.

The Vice-Chair noted that she would recuse herself from voting.

The following motion was made by Chris Robinson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Audit as presented.

01:30:31 9) Conservation Permit Annual Report (Action)

Assistant Wildlife Section Chief Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled "Utah's Conservation Permit Program."

01:37:32 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RAC Chairs.

01:37:54 Public Electronic Comments

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

01:37:58 Public Comments/Division Clarification

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

01:38:00 Board Discussion

The Board commented on how much has been accomplished since the inception of the Conservation Permit Program

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented by the Division.

01:39:47 10) Expo Permit Audit (Action)

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson gave a presentation titled, "Expo Audit for 2025."

01:49:00 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if expo permits are comparable to what is offered in a limited entry draw, if the species representation is comparable. The Board also asked what the advantage is to having an individual validate in-person, and if an individual has to attend the Expo in order to apply for a permit.

01:52:34 Public Electronic Comments

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

01:52:35 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time.

01:53:33 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bob Christensen and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we accept the Expo Permit Audit as presented by the Division.

01:54:09 11) Expo Permit Allocation (Action)

Assistant Wildlife Section Chief Dax Mangus gave a presentation titled, "2026 Expo Permit Allocation."

01:55:46 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Justin Oliver, seconded by Ryan Foutz and passed unanimously with 1 recusal (Paula Richmond).

MOTION: I move that we approve the Expo Permit Allocation as presented by the Division.

01:56:30 12) 2026 RAC/Board Meeting Dates (Action)

Wildlife Board Coordinator Staci Coons announced the 2026 Wildlife Board and RAC meeting dates, and the location of the 2026 Board meetings.

01:58:45 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked if calendars invitations for meetings would be emailed.

01:59:25 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2026 RAC/Board Meeting Dates as presented by the Division.

01:59:52 13) Other Business (Contingent)

Chairman Nielson confirmed that he would follow through with working with the Division to provide the Central RAC with a sample population model.

The Board expressed appreciation for the thoroughness of each RAC's tackling of agenda items throughout the last two RAC cycles.

02:02:31 Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

1) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revision (**Action**)

NR, CR, NER

MOTION: I move we approve 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

SR **MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented with the exception of giving archery hunters the same number of days to hunt as the rifle hunters.**

VOTE: Motion fails

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

VOTE: Passes 6-2

SER **MOTION: I move that we accept the boundary change in the elk portion as presented.**

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

MOTION: I move that we run cow hunts at the same time to leave the days for the archery hunt.

VOTE: Fails 5-3

MOTION: I move that we swap new cow hunt with the archery hunt season dates.

VOTE: Fails 6-2

MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendation as presented.

VOTE: Passes 7-1

2) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan (**Action**)

All Regions

MOTION: I move we approve Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

3) R657-42 Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief (**Action**)

All Regions

MOTION: I move we approve R657-42- Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

4) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

All Regions

MOTION: I move we approve CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Approved Unanimously

RAC AGENDA
November 12, 2025

The meeting will stream live at https://youtube.com/live/yc330Ysk_Wc

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|--|----------------------|
| 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 Resources Conference Room
1115. N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtube.com/live/CfDuo5IMSGg>

SR RAC – Nov 18th 6:00 PM
South 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 14th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 N. Vernal Ave, Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/xdEy-6sgUS4>

Board Meeting- Dec 4th 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtube.com/live/3ggIyF48cnY>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimous.

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

2) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revision (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Wyatt Selman, seconded by Hunter Stallings and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions as presented.

3) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Garrett Larsen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan as presented.

4) R657-42 Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel, seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve R657-42- Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief as presented.

5) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Robert Dale and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations as presented.

DRAFT

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 12, 2025

Attendance

RAC Members

Brad Buchanan - Chair
Jim Christensen - Exec Sec
James Carlson-Vice Chair

Robert Dale
Garrett Larsen
Wyatt Selman

Hunter Stallings
Ross Worthington
Brandon Zundel

Board Member

Justin Oliver, Gary Nielson, Paula Richmond, Kent Johnson

RAC Excused

Ryan Brown
Jaimi Butler
Avery Cook
Darren Parry
Casey Snider
Steve Sorensen
Jessica Wade

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson
Dax Mangus
Darren Debloois
Sam Robertson
Daniel Sallee
Xaela Walden
Clint Sampson
Ginger Stout

Mike Christensen
David Beveridge
Lindy Varney
Hollie Suisse
Rusty Robinson
Hailey Wayment
Melissa Early

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 12, 2025

00:04:12 **1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.**

00:07:55 **2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimous.

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

00:08:31 **3) Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan**

Link on website to view.

00:10:05 **4) Regional Update – Jim Christensen (Informational)**

Jim Christensen updated the RAC on regional activities.

00:27:55 **5) Mandatory Testing and Chronic Wasting Disease (Informational)**

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

No additional information was added to the presentation.

00:24:07 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Goal of 300 CWD samples. Elk in the Ogden unit have tested positive for the disease. Why are we not requiring mandatory testing for antlerless elk in the unit? Who will do the sampling? Timeline to turn in CWD samples. Repercussions of not turning in a

CWD sample. Other opportunities to turn in CWD samples available across the state. Encourage muzzleloader and archery hunters to turn in CWD samples.

Public Questions

None

00:29:29 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

00:30:51 6) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revision (Action)

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

No additional information was added to the presentation.

00:31:06 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Boundary change for extended archery hunt and when it will take effect.

Public Questions

None

00:32:18 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

Russ Sheridan- We are leaving a lot of money on the table with the elk herd. Used to have an elk permit that allowed hunters to hunt all three seasons. Need to have a Dedicated Hunter elk permit or bring back the multi-season elk permit. The division could make a lot of money. Offer another permit in general season areas but hold the hunt during the limited entry season dates.

Kevin Norman- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Supports the new boundary proposal for hunting elk.

00:37:04 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Great tool to keep pressure on the elk and push them back into the foothills. Shorten the cow elk hunt dates so the elk aren't being pushed back and forth. Appreciate the division thinking outside the box and being flexible in problem areas.

The following motion was made by Wyatt Selman, seconded by Hunter Stallings and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move to approve 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions as presented.

00:40:51 7) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan (Action)

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

No additional information was added to the presentation.

00:41:02 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Tribal representative on the committee. How often are the bison crossing into Colorado? Colorado's tolerance for the bison. Permittee for grazing rights.

Public Questions

None

00:44:48 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

00:45:03 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Appreciate the DWR including the permittee and agriculture in the discussion.

Number of bison that migrate. Committee and growers working together. Opportunities to grow the herd.

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Garrett Larsen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan as presented.

00:47:30 8) R657-42 Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief (Action)

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

No additional information was added to the presentation.

00:47:56 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Discretion for the director to make final decisions. Objective criteria. How to remedy the situation. Define hunting opportunity. How areas are impacted with closures and limited accessibility.

Public Questions

None

00:53:31 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

00:53:47 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Gives the division the flexibility to make the decision without having to go through a process. Common sense approach. Caution there may be more requests in the future.

The following motion was made by Brandon Zundel , seconded by Wyatt Selman and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve R657-42 Amendments- Natural Disaster Relief as presented.

00:56:24 9) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations (Action)

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

Darren Debloois summarized the presentation for the RAC.

00:57:36 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Patmos Ridge CWMU and the Reciprocal permit. CWMU already enrolled as an elk CWMU. More pronghorn permits on Desert in one year. Beaver Hollow new CWMU for moose.

Public Questions

None

01:01:10 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Public Comment

None

01:01:31 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

None

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Robert Dale and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move we approve CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations as presented.

**RAC Member Ross Worthington thanked the students who attended the RAC meeting.

01:02:42 Motion to Adjourn. Ross Worthington

Central Region RAC Meeting

November 13th, 2025

Springville, Utah

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

**Central Region RAC Meeting
Summary of Motions
November 13th, 2025
Springville, Utah**

1) **Approval of Agenda**

The following motion was made by Brock McMillan, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

2) **2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions**

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Josh Greenhalgh. This was passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

3) **Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan**

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Josh Greenhalgh. This was passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

4) **R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief**

The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Scott Jensen. This was passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

5) **CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations**

The following motion was made by John Ziegler and seconded by Joshua Kaze. This was passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.

Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance

November 13th, 2025

Springville, Utah

RAC Members

Attending

Brock McMillan

Jared Peterson

John Ziegler

Scott Jensen

Bryce Castagnetto

Josh Greenhalgh

Braden Sheppard

Kellen Hyer

Joshua Kaze

Amos Murphy (online)

Jim Shuler(online)

Absent

Drew Eline

Eric Reid

Tyson Skeen

Wildlife Board

Attending

Gary Nielson

Paula Richmond (online)

Justin Oliver, (online)

DWR Personnel

Attending

Amanda Worthen

Danny Summers

Ashley Green

Michael Packer

Nicole Passeri

Dave Smedley

Virginia Stout

Elicia Cotcher

Darren Debloois

Lindy Varney

Sam Robertson

Clint Sampson

Matt Briggs

Total members of the public in attendance: 17

Central Region RAC Meeting

November 13th, 2025

Springville, Utah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CfDuo5IMSGg>

06:00:00	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 and public comments will be taken during the meeting.
06:03:24	1/2) Approval of Agenda & Past Minutes (Action) The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Bryce Castagnetto and passed unanimously. MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
06:03:59	3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational) RAC Chair Brock McMillan provided an update on the previous Wildlife Board Meeting.
06:05:09	4) DWR Regional Update (Informational) Danny Summers updated the RAC on all regional activities. Wildlife Section - The general season rifle deer hunt has ended. - Releasing pheasants weekly through November. - Deer classification going on now. - David Smedley was hired as the CR Wildlife Manager. - Elicia Cotcher was hired as the new Wasatch West biologist. - Wildlife Conservation held a bat night in August that was received very well by those that attended. They will also continue to install Motus towers. Aquatics Section - Lower Provo River E-fishing - Thank you to 20+ volunteers including local guides, BRFAC, USAC, TU, LE etc. - Electrofishing to pass population estimates. - Analysis in Progress (first glance looks good) - Planning Efforts/Outreach - Utah Lake Symposium - Oct 30-31st. - State Conservation Species Planning meeting - Nov 3-5th (amphibians and native fish, including cutthroat) Habitat Section - Scalping and planting 140,000 shrub seedlings on Forest Service, BLM and State Lands. - Completed a 3,778 acre prescribed fire to improve mule deer habitat on the south Sn Pitch mountain range. - Trans West Express power line construction beginning. Our impact biologists are working to mitigate wildlife impacts. Outreach Section

	- Held a number of events in September and October including: - Kokanee Salmon Viewing Event. - Women's Shotgun Shooting Clinic. - Special Needs Adults Fishing Event. - Rattlesnake Viewing Event - November beginner youth and adult pheasant hunts on Santaquin WMA were a success. - Huge thank you to Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife for their partnership. - Bighorn sheep viewing event Saturday, Dec 6th. From 9 AM to 12PM at Rock Canyon Trailhead. - Partner event with Utah Wild Sheep Foundation and Provo City. Law Enforcement - Two individuals started the ALW hunt the day before the opening day. Once they realized they had made a mistake, they called and self-reported. - Officer Shepherd is investigating a buck shot just before dark the night before the opening. Prosecution is likely. - Officers checked many mature bucks during the ALW hunt. They also encountered a lot of violations including trespassing, wasting protected wildlife, no licenses, tagging issues, deer killed in the wrong unit and wrong animals harvested. - Two new officers assigned to the CRO. - Officer Gary Jorgensen - South Utah County - Officer Greg Stewart - North Utah County
06:13:21	5) Mandatory Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (Informational) Virginia Stout, Wildlife Veterinarian presented to the board.
06:13:52	Public Comments There were no public comments.
06:14:04	RAC Questions The RAC asked questions in regards to how CWD tests are taken/reported. The RAC asked how hunters should properly handle their deer while awaiting CWD results (i.e. butchering, storing, consumption). The RAC raised questions around why the DWR allows CWD positive meat to be kept by a hunter instead of forcing them to turn it over considering the severity of the disease. The RAC asked why the DWR has not proposed the use of predator cleansing on units being affected by the disease. The RAC asked questions surrounding the logistics of requiring CWD testing to be mandatory for all hunters. The RAC asked how confident the DWR is in the growth of the disease across units considering the lack of abundant samples. The RAC asked if the DWR was also testing roadkill deer/elk for CWD. The RAC questioned if there has ever been a proven transmission from a CWD positive animal to a human. The development of a potential vaccine to treat someone who has CWD was also discussed. The RAC asked how the DWR plans to implement the mandatory testing for CWD in the Ogden unit.

06:33:31	RAC Discussion The RAC expressed their overall support of the mandatory testing and shared they will be willing to assist in any way possible.
06:34:34	6) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions Sam Robertson, Northern Region Wildlife Biologist presented to the board.
06:35:02	Public Comments There were no public comments.
06:35:11	RAC Questions With the additional 19 bison tags that were issued, the RAC asked what the range looked like in that area at that time in comparison to now. How the DWR uses the drought monitor index to help them was also explained. The RAC asked for clarification on the season dates being shortened to make space for this additional hunt.
06:41:14	Public Questions There were no public questions.
06:41:18	RAC Discussion The RAC discussed the difficulty of accessing the Henry's and the challenges that come up during the hunt. Breaking the hunts up to potential help hunters have a higher success rate was also supported.
06:43:32	2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions MOTION The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Josh Greenhalgh. This was passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
06:44:07	7) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan Clint Sampson, Northeastern Region Wildlife Biologist presented to the board.
06:44:36	RAC Questions The RAC asked for an explanation of the feral horse removal on the Book Cliffs and what that entailed. The RAC asked for feedback on raising the objective to 650 bison between the two units to support a better overall hunt for sportsmen. Accessibility from the south end of the unit to the roadless area was also discussed. Research shows that the bison have moved completely from one unit over to the other in years past. With this in mind, the RAC asked what the tribe has shared with the movement of tags being

	fluctuated to follow the migration of the bison.
06:54:31	Public Questions There were no public questions.
06:54:35	RAC Discussion The RAC discussed the potential to raise bull bison tags on the unit. The RAC mentioned they would love to see an increase in collar data from its current 3% to help monitor the herds migration patterns more closely. The RAC discussed the current strategies the DWR is using to remove feral horses off of the unit. The RAC expressed their overall gratitude to the DWR for the habitat management efforts they have made to restore the landscape.
07:02:45	Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan MOTION The following motion was made by Scott Jensen and seconded by Josh Greenhalgh. This was passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
07:03:13	8) R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator presented to the board.
07:03:35	RAC Questions The RAC asked for an explanation of the thresholds for turning back a surrendered tag.
07:04:40	Public Questions There were no public questions.
07:04:43	RAC Discussion The RAC shared how the “even one day” of hunting rule was a bit tight considering how long individuals wait to receive tags and the time constraints it may take to turn them back in. The RAC also discussed the 50% of a unit being inaccessible due to a natural disaster and what they may look like from unit to unit. (La, Sal vs. Fishlake etc.)
07:11:24	R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief MOTION The following motion was made by Bryce Castagnetto and seconded by Scott Jensen.

	This was passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
07:11:51	9) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations Darren DeBloois, Public Lands Private Wildlife Coordinator presented to the board.
07:13:34	RAC Questions The RAC asked for an explanation of the state of the public lands access now that the acreage has dropped so significantly on the CWMU's.
07:15:49	Public Questions There were no public questions.
07:15:51	RAC Discussion The RAC expressed their support of the utility of working with CWMU's.
07:16:58	CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations MOTION The following motion was made by John Ziegler and seconded by Joshua Kaze. This was passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented.
07:17:26	Meeting adjourned.

**Southern Regional RAC Meeting
November 18, 2025
Southern Utah University
Cedar City, Utah
6:00 P.M.**

RAC Members

Attending

**Bart Battista
Rachel Bolus
Chris Cannon
Chuck Chamberlain
Brooklyn Cox
Russell Gardner
Mike Grant
Bryant Johnson
Chad Utley**

Absent

**Austin Atkinson
Trevor Barnson
Gary Barney
Travis Duran**

Wildlife Board

Paula Richmond

Kent Johnson (Online)

DWR Personnel

**Kevin Bunnell
Teresa Griffin
Kody Jones**

**Adam Kavalunas
David Montague**

Public invited to join online: <https://youtube.com/live/woqJ7VvPgoU>

06:00:07	1) RAC Vice Chairman Bryant Johnson called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and recognized the Wildlife Boards members that were present. He explained the RAC process and that there will be no live presentations. The public will be given the opportunity of providing comments and asking questions at the appropriate time. Encouraged the public to submit comment cards if they wish to provide comments or ask questions. He asked for respect and professional conduct from all those in attendance. The Wildlife Board makes the final decision, not the regional RAC's.
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06:02:30	2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action) The following motion was made by Chris Cannon, seconded by Russell Gardner. Passed unanimously. MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes as presented.
06:03:18	3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational) Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor Reviewed the RAC's recommendations to the Wildlife Board.
06:05:15	4) DWR Update (Informational) Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor <u>Wildlife:</u> - Continue to hold Mule Deer meetings in Cedar City, Richfield, and Ruby's Inn. - Positive feedback from rifle deer hunt. - CWD collection continuing on Pine Valley, SWD, Beaver and Fillmore units (primarily roadkill now) - Biologists are busy with Deer classification. - Reach out if you would like to be involved in December deer captures. - Reminder to slow down at dawn/dusk while Deer are migrating, a lot of roadkill right now. - Installed 12 new big game guzzlers in six (6) locations: Pine Valley and SWD. - Additional installations planned for spring. Bighorn Sheep flights last week: Oak Creek – 255 sheep – started with 23 in 2014); Mineral Mountains – 106 sheep - started with 51 in 2019. Mountain Goats: Mt. Dutton - 10 new collars and disease sampling. - Continuing to release pen-reared Pheasants throughout the region until the end of November. - Held several successful youth pheasant hunts. - Continue non-lead ammunition education. - Trapped over 2300 Utah Prairie Dogs this season, conducted predator control at release sites. <u>Aquatics:</u> <u>Panguitch Lake Siphon Project:</u> <u>Need:</u> Water quality issues from high nutrient levels threaten fishery (low dissolved oxygen) and ability to recreate (harmful algae blooms, etc).

- **Goals and Strategy:** Maintain excellent fishery and recreational opportunities by installing a siphon to pull water from deep part of lake where it is high in nutrient levels and low in oxygen.
- **Status:** Currently in planning phase (design, funding, permitting) and intend to implement in fall of 2026.
- **Sport Fish:** Completed project on Twin Creeks boardwalk and parking area in Fishlake. **Kokanee** egg collection successful, food web study is nearly complete.
- **Lake Powell:** Completed fall gillnet surveys and year-long creel survey. Low water level hit **Shad** and older **Striped Bass** hard, but still a healthy population. Total angler hours down, while angler catch rates were up. Increasing water level would help everything.
- **General:** Wrapping up field season work, transitioning to data, reports, project proposals, meetings, etc. Need a good snowpack to avoid drought issues next summer and fall.

Washington County Field Office:

- **Desert Tortoise:** Finished plant restoration project in Red Cliffs National Conservation Area (2017-2025) to assess plant growth/survival; local volunteers helped to collect plant cages and stakes.
- **Western Toad:** Released 278 toads on the Paunsaugunt Plateau in August/September.
- **Mollusk:** Collecting **Springsnail** samples for genetic work to update abundance and distribution records in the state.
- **Woundfin:** Approximately 300 fish were successfully transferred in a UDOT plane from Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (NM) to Aquatic Animal Health and Research Center (UT).
- **Santa Clara River:** Native fish have persisted following fall rainstorm events (concerns with run-off from Forsyth Fire). **Virgin Spinedace** (n=8) were collected and transferred to Loveland Living Planet Aquarium.

Habitat:

- Work underway on Monroe Canyon Fire Rehab, contracts are out for France Canyon Fire Rehab, and contracts will soon be out for Forsyth Fire Rehab.
- Lots of lop and scatter, cut and pile, mastication and Rabbit Brush Mowing contracts going on.
- New Cedar Area Restoration Bio David Montague started in October, will be hiring new NRCS partner biologist in next few weeks.
- Successful grass bank permit helping grazer affected by Monroe Canyon Fire.

	<u>Outreach:</u> • Wild game cooking clinic with local vendor was under attended, but participants went home well fed. • Regional pheasant hunts went great, lots of birds harvested (Cedar City, Annabella, and Pahvant). • Hunters helping Condor stations wrapped up last month. 250 people visited the station, over 130 hunters entered into the prize drawing. • Dedicated hunter program still has projects available for service hours. Hunters are reminded to submit their harvest reports. <u>Law Enforcement:</u> • Busy fall for our officers. • Officers in the region investigated over 60 cases during the month of October, 2025. • Focused on finishing up on investigations and moving cases through the court system. RAC Questions: • Chuck Chamberlain: You mention Mule Deer meetings, one in Richfield on December 3, 2025? • You also mentioned grassbank on the Monroe for a permittee, how does that work? • Kevin Bunnell: This will be the third round in Richfield. • We have grazing permits for some of our Wildlife Management Areas. We don't have a regular permit when we have fires across the region. We work through the Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, and Forest Service and, in some cases we are able to offer some relief. This is a 30-day permit to help grazing for 100 cows.
06:18:32	5) Mandatory Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (Action) Ginger Stout, Wildlife Veterinarian Presented the Division's recommendation and answered questions from the RAC and public members. CWD has been in Utah for some time, we have had some struggle in obtaining right sample sizes. Goal is to obtain 300 samples from our target units. We rotate our units every five years. We have not had very good hunter participation in the past. Ogden unit will have mandatory CWD testing for general season Deer hunts, start small, may expand mandatory testing to other units.

06:18:44

RAC Questions

- **Bryant Johnson:** We are moving towards mandatory testing in the future.
- Next year will begin with Ogden?
- Usually people associate CWD with Deer, but can't Elk get it the same way?
- 2002 was the first year, we saw CWD in Utah. Recent hunt in Colorado, there was mandatory CWD testing. Told CWD was in Utah since 1970's.
- Are there not enough samples from road testing?
- **Ginger Stout:** Yes, mandatory testing in future, starting with Ogden units.
- We are worried about Elk as well, particularly in this unit, where we saw it in Elk first. We are starting with Mule Deer, then start with Elk.
- We began testing in the 1990's.
- Roadkill plays a big role, but it doesn't tell us what's going on across the unit. We have a point system, weighted towards the suspect in roadkill and it gives us more points to add into the total.
- **Bart Battista:** Do you coordinate with county sheriff's departments regarding roadkill and what they pull from the road?
- **Ginger Stout:** There have not been any coordinations, but we are working with UDOT and the contractors that pick up roadkill and the next step will be with law enforcement.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** What does the analysis cost?
- How much and it takes two-six (6) weeks to get sample results?
- If we need 300 Deer, I assume there is a waiting list.
- **Ginger Stout:** \$35.00 per sample.
- **Bart Battista:** How does the weighted scale work?
- **Ginger Stout:** The weighted scale gives a certain value for suspects, roadkill. Bucks are weighted higher than Does.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Is there ongoing testing to try to work towards a cure.
- With all of our Deer captures, there aren't any blood testing going on?
- **Ginger Stout:** No cure for CWD, it is fatal. We are working on different tissue types, no validated tests for live animals. There are a lot of studies and research going on.

- We are taking blood samples, ear punches, nasal swabs, and feces from captured animals to see if we can detect this in live animals.
- Most important is education. Found hunters don't know much about CWD, working on education and marketing campaigns.
- Encouraged everyone to submit samples for testing.
- **Russell Gardner:** Is there a time limit that the sample can be collected and submitted?
- **Ginger Stout:** Yes, we'd like it within 24-48; however, if you keep it cool it can be longer. We can even take the sample if it's frozen.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** You mentioned mandatory testing in Ogden for a year or two. Are you concerned this isn't moving fast enough to curb CWD spread?
- **Ginger Stout:** Valid point. Educating hunters on how to take their own samples and increasing drop off places. Trying to make it easier for hunters.
- **Mike Grant:** Are you just wanting Ogden samples? Or will you accept samples across the state?
- **Ginger Stout:** Yes. We have a five-year rotation of all Deer units. If it's outside those target areas, we can't pay for every sample submitted.
- **Chris Cannon:** Are you anticipating resistance to mandatory testing?
- **Ginger Stout:** We haven't experienced resistance, but we are starting slow with mandatory testing.
- **Chad Utley:** Presentation indicated CWD is passed environmentally. Can't you test Deer droppings?
- **Ginger Stout:** That is one of things we are sampling to see if it gives us valid test.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Let's say we test for it and we have it and it's getting out of hand.
- Touchy subject reducing Buck to Doe ratio.
- **Ginger Stout:** We know we will have it, we don't want it to become prevalent. Education campaign to educate hunters on proper practices on dispose of carcasses, etc. Don't want prions to move from unit to unit across the state.

	• Keeping Buck to Doe ratio lower to lessen spread. Each area is different it would be very specific to an area. • Kevin Bunnell: We have done that and it's very localized. It's not the whole unit. It stays within a particular part of the unit. • Bart Battista: Highly resistant in the environment. Are there things that actually degrade it? How long in the environment is it viable? • Are there actual things that degrade it? • Ginger Stout: Approximately five plus years. But, variables are soil type, weather, etc. • No not right now.
06:36:54	• Public Questions: None.
06:37:15	• Public Comments: None. • Kevin Bunnell: There were no online comments submitted.
06:37:25	6) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions (Action) Sam Robertson, Northern Region Wildlife Biologist Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members.
06:37:44	RAC Questions: • Bryant Johnson: Doesn't remember many revisions in the presentation, except with the Henry Mountain Bison. • Sam Robertson: Henry Mountains Bison, an additional cow hunt and extended archery boundary for the Cache. • Chris Cannon: Has the archery hunt for Bison always been last? • Presentation showed that would drop archery hunters down to an eight day hunt next year? • Do you feel these animals are getting pushed further into inaccessible areas by added another hunt? • Are we increasing the difficulty for archery by limiting their hunt days? • Last year it was a nine-day hunt? Would like to see Archery hunters to have a better opportunity and keep it at nine days, when they wait for a lifetime to obtain this permit. Seems unfair.

- Likes what the Division is doing with the extended archery and boundaries in the presentation.
- Have you thought about having a provision of shutting the hunt down if we get into a severe winter? Even though the idea is to get them off the agricultural land. Hear about not harassing wildlife, etc. Optics to the public may not be good.
- **Sam Robertson:** Not sure when the archery hunt changed, but it has been the last hunt for the last little bit.
- Eight day hunt because that's where the calendar falls at the end of the year.
- The hope is that adding the hunt will limit that pressure. Some of the hunts can get too many hunters at once.
- Archery success rates since 2007, the time it took to harvest was 6.4 days.
- The number of days is based on the calendar, it has been over eight days.
- Yes, there are reasons we could shut hunts down if things get drastic. The boundary on this hunt is primarily private.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** One of the things our Director has the authority to do is shut down a hunt if there is an emergency situation – on short notice.
- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Is there any concern about accessing that private land? Years ago he hunted in Logan and it was 95% private, couldn't find a single landowner to let him on their property. Is there access to public?
- **Sam Robertson:** There are landowners that are so fed up with Elk, they'll be allowing hunters on their land to hunt. We also have a couple of walk-in access areas.
- **Mike Grant:** Looking at the hunt tables on the Henry Mountains with the new hunt. Sixty-three days and nine days break. We're pushing those Bison and we want to add another hunt so more can be successful. They don't have a break now. 100 percent in favor of hunter opportunity.
- So, this will be specifically a new hunt due to drought?
- Part of this was an emergency because of drought conditions. Adding another hunt if permits are added on, they can go to a certain area.
- Does the hunt start this year because of the drought? Or next year, the drought might not be as bad.
- **Sam Robertson:** Part of this is in response to drought conditions. You won't see a max of 30 permits given out every year.
- This will be in place for the next couple of years, and then it will be looked at and revised as needed.

	• Kevin Bunnell: The Wildlife Board added the additional 19 this because of the drought. This hunt will continue for the next two years as part of the three-year plan. The next time we set hunts dates, if it's not needed anymore, it won't continue.
06:45:24	Public Questions: None.
06:45:35	Public Comments: None. • Kevin Bunnell: There were no online comments submitted.
06:45:55	MOTIONS: The following motion was made by Chris Cannon seconded by Mike Grant. . MOTION: I move that we accept as proposed with the exception of giving archery hunters the same number of days to hunt as the rifle hunters. Motion failed. 2 in favor, 6 opposed (Rachel Bolus, Russell Gardner, Chad Utley, Bart Battista, Brooklyn Cox, Chuck Chamberlain). • Bart Battista : Didn't we just say there was too much pressure on the herds? Now we are asking to keep the same amount of pressure on them? • So you would decrease the hunt days from the new cow only hunt? • Mike Grant: You would take days off the rifle hunts. We have a limited amount of time to hunt. We can go from November 1st through January 31st. • Sam Robertson: That six days for the archery on the average for the archery hunt since 2017.

	• Chris Cannon: The average for the rifle hunt is considerably less, especially the early hunts. • Kevin Bunnell: We would not be adding extra days, just distributing the same amount of days more equally. • Bart Battista: Would you overlap them the new cow only hunt and archery hunters? How would you enforce that? • Chuck Chamberlain: What the downside if we are taking a day or two away or adding to a hunt? • Are we opening a can of worms? • Would love to have the Wildlife Board look at switching the hunts, giving the archery hunters • Sam Robertson: Hunt dates have already been put in to place. • You would be shortening the following year's hunt. • Hunt structures and season dates are already established. • Chris Cannon: You'd be shortening it, but not down to eight days. • Is there a way to switch the archery hunt dates with where you're putting this extra cow hunt? • Sam Robertson: That would be something we would have to speak to the biologists about. • Kevin Bunnell: If the Wildlife Board passes this, it would be up to the division to figure out how to make it work. • Bryant Johnson: The hunt used to be in September at one time and it was a very successful hunt. Not sure why it was changed, January on the Henry's can be brutal. The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Russell Gardner: MOTION: I move that we accept the division's presentation as proposed. Motion passed: 6 in favor, two opposed (Chris Cannon and Mike Grant)
06:53:45	7) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan (Action) Clint Sampson, Northeastern Region Wildlife Biologist Presented the Division's recommendation and answered questions from the RAC and public.

06:54:50

RAC Questions

- **Bryant Johnson:** You're looking at increasing your size of that herd?
- What was that split again?
- **Clint Sampson:** Yes. Recommending a split, having a sub-unit on the Bitter Creek area and another one is Little Creek (roadless area).
- Found Bison are very susceptible to hunting pressure and habitat treatments.
- The animals on the Bitter Creek unit do not leave. They stay on public land. Have not ventured into Colorado much up until now.
- The other herd we deal with is a migratory herd. They show up right before the rut. They will show up in July and stay until the snow drives them out or it melts in the spring and they migrate out and show back up on tribal land.
- That fluctuation has affected the ability to manage that herd.
- By splitting it and making it two separate objectives. It will provide a better hunt for sportsman on the Bitter Creek unit.
- **Bart Battista:** You want to increase the population from 450 to 650 and distribute them more so there is less impact.
- Have you analyzed or given a prediction of what that increased impact with look like?
- **Clint Sampson:** Envisions it being spread out like it is now. We'll be able to grow them at a slow pace. We've been able to keep the Bitter Creek down to the low 100's as far as total number. We can grow them at a small enough rate so we can adapt as we see changes.
- **Bryant Johnson:** Are some of them going into Colorado?
- Do you foresee them wanting to hunt Bison on that side of the state line?
- **Clint Sampson:** Most of our collar data shows they go up to the Colorado border and stay right there.
- Colorado does not value them as a wildlife species and they usually are shot if they cross the border.
- January 1st, Colorado will consider them a protected wildlife species.
- Will leave the Bison hunting in Colorado up to them.
- **Chris Cannon:** Do any of these Bison end up on Ute reservation land?
- **Clint Sampson:** That herd that migrates on and off the Little Creek unit, usually May to June, they will end up on Ute land. When we fly in the winter we can see aware form 300-500 animals.

	• The new hunt structure looks positive. There are gaps between, let's the animals relax. As soon as they get too much pressure, they moved back to the tribal land. • Kevin Bunnell: Received a text from Covy Jones. Colorado legislature changed the Bison to protective wildlife. Their wildlife agency is working on a rule and management plan. • Brooklyn Cox: What is the justification for doing this? There's an increase in forage and changes to grazing practices. With this new plan, is there an ability to work with grazers? Is it a lifestyle change? Or is it a Bison grazing practices? • Still opportunities for conversations to happen? • Clint Sampson: Works with the one permittee (Clay McKeachnie) who is actively grazing there right now. • Good communication, work well with improving habitat, springs, etc. • Chris Cannon: Did the Utes have a harvest objective? Do they coordinate with you? • Clint Sampson: We do work to coordinate with them, some years are better than others in what information is shared. Most of the time there's a curtain there. • Bryant Johnson: Were we able to get access back to cross that one-mile area? • Clint Sampson: Yes, if you are a sportsman and you want access, you can request an access permit for tribal land. They do ask for a 21-day notice, but I haven't heard of people being turned away.
07:05:06	Public Questions: None.
07:05:12	Public Comments: None. • Kevin Bunnell: There were no online comments submitted.
07:05:18	RAC Discussion: None.

07:05:30	MOTIONS The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Chris Canon. MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented. Passed unanimously
07:06:15	8) R657-42 Amendments (Action) Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members.
07:06:25	RAC Questions: • Chuck Chamberlain: Two ways for relief: 1) If your home or access is cut off somehow or 2) if your unit is burned halfway down to the ground. • Lindy Varney: Correct. This rule is for a hunter's relief versus a unit relief. • Hunter relief can be individual while a unit relief is all hunters. • Russell Gardner: About 50% of the Pine Valley was burned and no one was eligible for relief, but the Monroe fire was different • Lindy Varney: Yes, the Monroe fire met that criteria. That is where this rule stems from. The Division will have some authority rather than holding an emergency Board meeting. • It's 50% of hunting opportunity and access. Many different variables. • When did the fire start? How much did it consume? How much road access is there? Where are the animals running or hiding. • Some units are huge, but they don't have the habitat for Deer or other species.
07:08:26	Public Questions: None.
07:08:35	Public Comments: None. • Kevin Bunnell: There were no online comments submitted.

07:08:44	RAC Discussion • Chuck Chamberlain: Appreciates the division taking a look at this This year would have been hard for a lot of hunters, many of whom have waited a long time to draw a permit. • Bryant Johnson: Did you see a lot of hunters turn their permits back in on the Monroe? • And some extended for next year? • Positive feedback about the division's response. • Lindy Varney About 50-50. • Yes. About 40% elected to get their points back, between all the hunts that were offered relief.
07:09:50	MOTIONS The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Bart Battista. MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented. Passed unanimously.
07:10:25	9) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations (Action) Darren DeBloois, Public Lands Private Wildlife Coordinator Presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members.
07:11:30	• RAC Questions: • Chuck Chamberlain: In the southern region, the Pahvant Ensign is switching to 80-20, correct? What was it before? • Darren DeBloois: I believe it's 85%. • Kevin Bunnell: There will be some increased opportunities for antlered hunts for the public, but the CWMU's will keep additional opportunities for antlerless hunts.
07:13:04	Public Questions: None.
07:13:14	• Public Comments: • Kevin Bunnell: There were no online comments submitted.

	• Bob Ott: The Limited Entry Landowner's Association in Utah recommends the RAC approve the Division's recommendations as presented.
07:13:47	RAC Discussion: None.
07:14:00	MOTIONS The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain. MOTION: I move that we approve the Division's recommendations as presented. Passed unanimously
07:14:50	Meeting adjourned. NEXT MEETING: December 16, 2025 – DNR Richfield City Complex

RAC AGENDA
November 19th, 2025

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/RbhFZqOZjCE>

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 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, Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |

NR RAC – Nov. 12th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
https://youtube.com/live/yc330Ysk_Wc

CR RAC – Nov. 13th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
115 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 22nd, 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>

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 19th, 2025

Summary of Motions

Action Item 1: Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.
Motion: To accept agenda and minutes.

Action Item 2: 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions

- The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Mat Farnsworth and passed unanimously.
Motion: To accept the boundary change in the elk portion as presented.
- The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Brad Richman and failed 5-3.
Motion: To run cow hunts at the same time to leave the days for the archery hunt.
- The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 6-2.
Motion: To swap new cow hunt with the archery hunt season dates.
- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed 7-1.
Motion: To accept the recommendation as presented.

Action Item 3: Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan

- The following motion was made by Trish Hedin, seconded by Mat Farnsworth and passed unanimously.
Motion: To approve the division's recommendation as presented.

Action Item 4: R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief

- The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Daniel Luke and passed unanimously.
Motion: To approve the division's recommendation as presented.

Action Item 5: CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations

- The following motion was made by Mat Farnsworth, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.
Motion: To approve the division's recommendation as presented.

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 19th, 2025

Attendance

RAC Members

Scoot Flannery – Chair
Cash Stallings – Vice Chair
Trish Hedin
TJ Cook (For Chris Wood) – Exec Secretary

Steven Duke
Charles Fischer
Jake Palma

Matt Farnsworth
Daniel Luke
Brad Richman

Board Members

Kent Johnson

Bob Christensen

Paula Richmond

RAC Excused

Jack Cantsee Jr.
Justin Ivins

Tyler Gilson

Joe Sacco

Division Personnel

Lindy Varney
Brandon Behling
JD Abbot
Kyler Stilson

Ginger Stout
Clint Sampson
TJ Cook
Evan Rees

Darren DeBloois
Sam Robertson
Dustin Mitchell
Rusty Robinson

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
November 19th, 2025
Minutes

- 00:00:07** **1) Chairman Scoot Flannery** called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and read a statement. All RAC members introduced themselves.
- 00:03:49** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
- The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.
- MOTION:** To approve the agenda and minutes.
- 00:04:17** **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update given by Scoot Flannery (Informational)**
- Link on website to view.
- 00:05:47** **4) Regional Update – (Informational)**
- TJ Cook Updated the RAC on all regional activities.
- 00:08:35** **5) Mandatory Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (Informational)**
- Ginger Stout had no additional information regarding the presentation.
- 00:09:00** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- Potential for any other mandatory testing units in the future. Options for sending additional model kits for voluntary submissions. Prevalence in elk and future testing. Blood test and ear punch samples for detection. No live test. Funding options.
- 00:17:04** **6) 2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions (Action)**
- View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
- Sam Robertson had no additional information to add to the presentation.
- 00:17:40** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
- Current population and objectives for Henry’s Bison portion. Bison movement under pressure this year. Average data harvest on cow hunts. Number of additional tags. Divisions comfort with permits issued for 33% of herd. Possibility of cutting permits. Upcoming habitat projects. Reason for hunter’s choice permits rather than cow. Hunt dates.
- 00:28:18** **Public Comment/Questions**
- None
- 00:28:32** **Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**

None

00:28:40 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Concern regarding the number of permits. Potential road closure issues. Concern with adding another cow hunt that could take days from archery. Appreciation for Cache boundaries.

00:35:13 The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Mat Farnsworth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the boundary change in the elk portion as presented.

The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Brad Richman and failed 5-3.

MOTION: To Run cow hunts concurrently to continue to leave the days for the archery hunt.

The following motion was made by Daniel Luke, seconded by Cash Stallings and failed 6-2.

MOTION: To swap the new cow hunt with the archery season dates.

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Brad Richman and passed 7-1.

MOTION: Accept the division's recommendation as presented.

00:50:38 7) Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan (Action)

View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Clint Sampson clarified the presentation. 2 seats were not represented.

00:51:43 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Which 2 seats were not represented. Combining units to adjust population. Hunt structure and number of permits for next season. Potential impact on other species with increased bison numbers.

00:58:40 Public Comments/Questions

None

00:58:41 Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook

None

00:58:45 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Opinion of the tribe regarding plan. Changes in grazing and leasing. Habitat treatments. Monitoring thresholds and available vegetation. Achievable populations for all species on the book cliffs.

01:06:13 The following motion was made by Trish Hedin, seconded by Mat Farnsworth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the division's recommendation as presented.

- 01:07:05 8) R657-42 Amendments – Natural Disaster Relief (Action)**
View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
Lindy Varney had no additional information on the presentation.
- 01:07:31 Questions from RAC Members/Public**
Process for application and grace period. Past requests. Language states the division “may offer the following options”. Decision making process and consistency.
- 01:11:16 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood**
None
- 01:11:18 Public Comments/Questions**
None
- 01:11:30 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**
Support for recommendation. Concern with the number of requests and justifying approval or denial with transparency.
- 01:15:02** The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Daniel Luke and passed unanimously.
MOTION: To approve the division’s recommendation as presented.
- 01:15:54 9) CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations (Action)**
View presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>
Darren DeBloois clarified the presentation. There is a change to the acreage for the Salt Wells CWMU. Two Bear CWMU will be dropping elk.
- 01:17:11 Questions from RAC Members/Public**
Reason for Black Hawk, Indian Head and Patmos Ridge increases. 5 reasons under rule for CWMU permits to be put in reciprocal program.
- 01:24:11 Public Comments/Questions**
None
- 01:24:11 Electronic/Public Comment Report by TJ Cook**
None
- 01:24:20 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**
Appreciation for placing more public hunters on private land.
- 01:25:02** The following motion was made by Matt Farnsworth, seconded by Charles Fischer and passed unanimously.
MOTION: Accept the division’s recommendation as presented.

01:25:49

The following motion was made by Trish Hedin, seconded by Brad Richman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To adjourn.

DRAFT

Northeastern Region Advisory Council Meeting

November 20th, 2025

RAC Present	RAC Excused	RAC Not Present
Adam Nielson	Jake Huber	
Jordon McMahon	Dwayne Davies	
Grizz Oleen	Willis LeFevre	
Natasha Hadden	Tim Ignocia	
Richard Buehler	Nathan Crapo	
Eric Major (Online)		
Mark Chynoweth (Online)		

Wildlife Board

-Bob Christensen

-Gary Nielson (Online)

-Kent Johnson (Online)

DWR Staff Present

Miles Hanberg	Tonya Kieffer-Selby	
Clint Sampson	Dallon Christensen	
Dax Mangus	Levi Watkins	
Anthony Christianson	Ginger Stout	
Torrey Christopherson	Darren Debois	

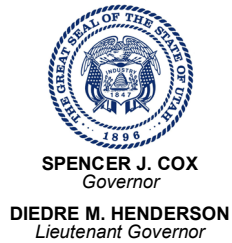
Pat Rainbolt	Sam Robertson	

00:00:00	1) Welcome and introductions by RAC Chairman, Grizz Oleen, filling in for Eric Major.
00:03:05	2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jordon McMahon, and passed unanimously. MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.
00:03:27	3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update Grizz Oleen read the motions summary from the September 18th , 2025 Wildlife Board meeting.
00:05:30	4) Regional Update Miles Hanberg gave a brief summary of regional updates.
00:16:18	5) <u>Mandatory Testing for Chronic Wasting Disease</u> Ginger Stout gave a brief summary about testing.
00:16:36	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> - How does the mandatory check in work? - Will there be training on how to take samples for the public? - Will the Myton area be mandatory?
00:19:06	<i>Questions from the public</i> Are we making any progress on the deer in myton?
00:20:38	<i>Online comment summary</i> No online comments.
00:25:15	<i>Public comment</i> How can non-residents know where to go for testing?
00:27:36	<i>RAC discussion</i>

	• No RAC discussion.
00:27:51	6) <u>2025-2027 Hunt Table and Season Dates Revisions</u> • Sam Robertson, Cache/Ogden district biologist.
00:28:08	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> • No questions from RAC.
00:28:15	<i>Questions from the public</i> • No questions from the public.
00:28:23	<i>Online comment summary</i> • No online comments.
00:28:27	<i>Public comment</i> • No public comments.
00:28:51	<i>RAC Discussion</i> • Why is there a late Henry MTN bison hunt?
00:33:47	<i>Motion:</i> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Adam Nielson, and passed Unanimously
00:34:17	7) <u>Book Cliffs Bison Management Plan</u> • Presented by Clint Sampson • Clint did a brief summary for the management plan.
00:34:53	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> • The goal was 450 and now we are going up to 600. • What is being done for horse mitigation? • Any recent talks about feral cattle in roadless area? • What about future feral horse removal? • Was it discussed how this will impact the deer and elk? • Is there a plan to increase tags by 50% ? • How are things changing with Colorado and bison ?

	Does Colorado have plans to have a bison hunt?
00:42:26	<i>Questions from the public</i> Is there any way of dispersing the herd over a bigger area?
00:47:30	<i>Online comment summary</i> No online comments.
00:47:35	<i>Public comment</i> No public comments.
00:47:40	<i>RAC discussion</i> - There has been a lot of habitat work in the book cliffs that has shown a lot of work and effort. - What is the priority for animals in the book cliffs on dry years? - More horse management will be good.
00:51:10	<i>Motion:</i> - The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Jordon McMahon, and passed Unanimously MOTION: To accept the plan as presented.
00:51:41	8) R657-42 Amendments-Natural Disaster Relief - Presented by Lindy Varney. - Lindy did a brief summary of the Amendment.
00:52:22	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> No questions from RAC.
00:52:33	<i>Questions from the public</i> No questions from the public.
00:52:38	<i>Online comment summary</i> No online comments.
00:52:41	<i>Public comment</i> No public comments.
00:52:45	<i>RAC discussion</i> It can be a good thing especially if there are fires threatening hunts.

00:53:06	<i>Motion:</i> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Jordon McMahon, and passed unanimously.
00:53:49	CWMU and Landowner Permit Recommendations
	• Presented by Darren Dubois. • Darren did a brief summary on the recommendations.
00:55:04	<i>Questions from the RAC</i> • Why is two-bear CWMU dropping elk hunts?
00:55:39	<i>Questions from the public</i> • No questions from the public.
00:55:47	<i>Online comment summary</i> • No online comments.
00:55:51	<i>Public comment</i> • No public comments.
00:55:54	<i>RAC discussion</i> • No RAC discussion.
00:56:10	<i>Motion:</i> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Adam Nielson, and passed unanimously.
00:57:05	Adjourn <i>Motion:</i> • The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden , seconded by Jordon McMahon, and passed unanimously.



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: Nov 11, 2025

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for season variance on Blackhawk and Hiawatha
CWMUs**

In 2024, the Blackhawk CWMU requested a variance to extend their bull elk hunt season until December 15, based on the rationale that elk movement onto the CWMU often occurs late in the year. The initial request was tabled while the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) determined its compatibility with current CWMU administrative rules. Subsequent review confirmed that the request is permissible under existing administrative rule.

Consequently, two variance requests to extend bull elk hunts to December 15 for both the Blackhawk and Hiawatha CWMUs were presented to the CWMU Advisory Committee on August 4, 2025. The Committee recommended approval of the variance for Blackhawk for the current hunting season, in light of their 2024 request, and for the Hiawatha CWMU beginning with the 2026 hunting season.

This recommendation is being brought forward to the Wildlife Board for authorization of the specified variances for these two CWMUs, as outlined by the CWMU Advisory Committee.

Should any Board Members require additional information or have questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Darren DeBloois
801-560-4461
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