

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

March 21, 2013, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, March 21, 2013, Board Meeting 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
– Ernie Perkins, Vice Chairman
2. Southwest Manti Cougar Harvest **ACTION**
– John Shivik, Mammals Program Coordinator
3. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
– Ernie Perkins, Vice-Chair

Board Members in attendance:
Ernie Perkins – Vice Chairman
Bill Fenimore

Board Members participating electronically:
Del Brady - Chairman
Mike King
Jake Albrecht
John Bair
Calvin Crandall

Approved

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
March 21, 2013, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The agenda was adopted by consent.

2) Southwest Manti Cougar Harvest (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Del Brady and passed 5 – 1 with John Bair, Del Brady, Bill Fenimore, Jake Albrecht and Calvin Crandall in favor. Mike King was opposed.

MOTION: I move that we close the Southwest Manti Harvest Objective unit effective Friday, March 22, 2013, for the remainder of the season.

Approved

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
March 21, 2013, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/13-03-21.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

Ernie Perkin – Acting Chair
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec
Bill Fenimore
Del Brady (phone)
Mike King (video conference)
Jake Albrecht (phone)
John Bair– (phone)
Calvin Crandall (video conference)

Division Personnel Present

Judi Tutorow	John Shivik
Staci Coons	Lindy Varney
Kevin Bunnell	Dean Mitchell
Thu Vo-Wood	Kenny Johnson
Marty Bushman	Troy Davis
Mike Fowlks	Karen Caldwell

Public Present

Sanpete Valley Houndsmen:

McCrae Christensen	Robert Olson
Jason Adamson	Earl Hansen
Andy Lyon	

Utah Houndsmen Association:

Dan Cockayne	Ken Painter
Chet Young	Jesse Painter
Aaron Johnson	Jason Binder

Vice Chairman Perkins welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife board. He explained the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the potential closure of the Southwest Manti cougar management unit due to female cougar harvest. There will be no discussions on cougar management plans, deer, bear or any other topic.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:05:21 – 00:05:52 of 01:47:30**

The agenda was adopted by consent.

- 2) Southwest Manti Cougar Harvest (**Action**) **00:05:53 – 01:30:41 of 01:47:30**

John Shivik presented the preliminary harvest data with a background on the cougar management plan. He thanked the Houndsmen for their persistence and aid in the data collection.

Board Questions 00:18:20 – 00:32:10

The Board had follow-up questions to clarify how numbers and data were derived.

John Shivik explained that the total female counts on slides 9 and 10 for 2012-2013 is inclusive of all female cougars. Adult females (3yrs old) have not been determined. Slide 9 shows the estimation of adult female is about 19 out of the 25 females harvested to date in all of the

Wasatch-Manti units. The preliminary count suggests 28% of the 66 harvested cougars are adult female.

Slide 10 addresses numbers specifically to the Southwest Manti unit. The preliminary numbers indicate 7 of the 13 cougars harvested so far are female. Of the 7, it is uncertain how many are adult females. The percentage of adult female can range anywhere between 33% and 54% depending on the final outcome.

The Board did conclude that there are social factors at play that were not considered in the management plan. However, John rhetorically questioned, how does one socially value one part of the biology versus another.

Public Questions 00:32:47 – 00:56:00

Much of the public's questions were based on how DWR extrapolated data to determine balance and viability. What factors are used to ascertain percentages? At what point are female cougars considered a female (adult vs. subadult)? What are the considerations for a sink or source area?

Public Comments 00:56:44 – 01:09:13

Dan Cockayne, Jason Adamson and Jason Binder – Houndsmen representatives – requested the Board close the Southwest Manti cougar hunt unit. Female cougars have been overharvested in this area. The count collected by DWR is skewed because it is not inclusive of all females.

Board Comments 01:09:46 – 01:30:16

The issues discussed today – social and biological factors – should be carefully considered when the cougar management plan comes up for review in a few months.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Del Brady and passed 5 – 1 with John Bair, Del Brady, Bill Fenimore, Jake Albrecht and Calvin Crandall in favor. Mike King was opposed.

MOTION: I move that we close the Southwest Manti Harvest Objective unit effective Friday, March 22, 2013, for the remainder of the season.

3) **Other Business (Contingent) 01:30:42 – 01:47:30**

Greg Sheehan gave an update on wildlife events, personnel changes, other government agency actions affecting DWR, and summarized the legislative session.

Meeting adjourned.