

STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

State Capitol Auditorium

Montgomery, Alabama

February 9, 2013

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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Proceedings taken before Tracye
Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter, ACCR
No. 294, and Commissioner for the State of Alabama
at Large, at the State Capitol Auditorium,
Montgomery, Alabama, on Saturday, February 9, 2013,
commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

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1 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 2 Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
- 3 Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
- 4 Mr. John McMillan
- 5 Dr. Gary Lemme
- 6 Mr. Bill Hatley
- 7 Mr. Austin Ainsworth
- 8 Dr. Warren Strickland
- 9 Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
- 10 Mr. Grady Hartzog
- 11 Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
- 12 Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.
- 13 Mr. Jeff Martin

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1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. If we're ready
2 to begin, the February 9th, 2013,
3 meeting of the Conservation Board will
4 come to order. I would like to welcome
5 everyone to the State Capitol here in
6 Montgomery. The board is glad that
7 you're able to make it today. The
8 invocation today will be given by
9 Mr. Bill "Bubba" Bussey.

10 Mr. Bussey.

11 MR. BUSSEY: Thank you, sir. Join me in
12 prayer.

13 Heavenly Father, thank you for
14 another beautiful day today. And,
15 Father, we just thank you for having
16 mercy on us because we have chosen our
17 ways over your ways. We are fallen
18 people, but thank you for your grace and
19 mercy.

20 Father, today we want to acknowledge
21 that you have left us as tenders of the
22 garden, and we thank you for that
23 responsibility. We thank you for that

1 privilege. And even though we have
2 different ideas, different theories,
3 different histories, different examples
4 that we go by, we ask that you will give
5 us the wisdom and the guidance that only
6 belongs to you, that we would find the
7 proper way, the right way, and the
8 correct way to take care of this
9 beautiful creation you have left us in
10 charge of.

11 Father, we ask that we will become
12 of one accord as we watch and as we have
13 control over the air, the land, and the
14 seas.

15 Father, we ask your blessings and
16 your guidance on these men. We thank
17 you for our government. We thank you
18 for our state. And we thank you for
19 those who volunteer their time to be
20 here to try to help manage our
21 outdoors.

22 Father, we ask that you will bless
23 this hearing and everything that's said

1 and done today. In the name above all
2 names, that of your son Jesus, Amen.

3 (Crowd responds.)

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Amen. Bill, before you
5 walk off, I'd like for everybody to make
6 sure and give Bill a round of applause.
7 Somebody with his kind of public
8 exposure to take the time to come down
9 and support conservation and what we do,
10 he needs a round of applause.

11 (Crowd responds.)

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next order of business
13 is the introduction of the board
14 members.

15 First I'd like to introduce our
16 Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. Gunter
17 Guy.

18 Next I'd like to introduce our
19 representative that's with us today,
20 Mr. Harry Shiver of the House
21 District 64. Representative Shiver,
22 right there.

23 Next I would like to introduce our

1 Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Curtis Jones.

2 And then, next, our Alabama's
3 Agriculture Commissioner that sits on
4 our board, Mr. John McMillan.
5 Commissioner.

6 We have an ex-officio member here
7 today, Dr. Gary Lemme, from the Alabama
8 Extension Service.

9 And starting all the way down at the
10 end with whoever is on the end, Austin
11 Ainsworth. If y'all would get a
12 microphone and I'll let the district
13 members give their name and what
14 district they represent. Mr. Ainsworth.

15 MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.

16 MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.

17 MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.

18 MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.

19 MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, District 5.

20 DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland,
21 Congressional District 5.

22 MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.

23 MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good, guys.

2 Now, y'all may see a little
3 different face down on the board. We've
4 got -- Grant Lynch, due to some
5 difficulties with his work, has left the
6 board early. He has been replaced with
7 Mr. Jeff Martin.

8 Jeff has board experience from
9 Tackle the Storm Foundation, Alabama
10 Governor's One-Shot Turkey Hunt, Todd
11 Jones Charity Auction, Wild Turkey
12 Federation -- I don't know about this
13 next one -- Red Elephant Club, Pell City
14 Planning and Zoning Commission. He owns
15 Vicious Fishing. And if you go in any
16 store in the U.S., you see his
17 products.

18 We have never had anybody from the
19 bass-fishing arena with his kind of
20 knowledge to come help us and support us
21 and the board from the fishing side.
22 And we welcome Jeff Martin to this
23 board. If y'all could give him a round

1 of applause.

2 (Crowd responds.)

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next order of business
4 is the approval of the May 19th, 2012,
5 Advisory Board minutes. Are there any
6 changes to the minutes?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If not, the minutes stand
9 approved as read.

10 The next order of business is a
11 special presentation to Mr. Tom
12 Boatwright. At this time I'd like to
13 call on Commissioner John McMillan and
14 Representative Harry Shiver to come to
15 the mic, please. Commissioner.

16 MR. McMILLAN: While Harry is coming up, Tom,
17 you come on up here too.

18 Bubba told me that Rick texted him
19 awhile ago and said, boy, it's a good
20 morning to be deer hunting. Bubba
21 texted him back and said, Rick, you're
22 really not supposed to be there, but
23 most of the officers are in Montgomery,

1 so -- but just don't go tomorrow.

2 All right. For those of you that
3 get to watch the Outdoor Channel on
4 television, you probably know this guy
5 right here, Tom Boatwright, who was
6 recently number two in the Field and
7 Stream Total Outdoorsman Challenge,
8 which he has won before. He's won the
9 Buckmasters Top Bow World
10 Championship --

11 Just once or more?

12 MR. BOATWRIGHT: One time.

13 MR. McMILLAN: -- one time and all kind of
14 other archery events and competitions.
15 And I just thought it was appropriate
16 that we recognize him with a group of
17 folks that probably as much as any group
18 in the state can appreciate those
19 accomplishments.

20 So on behalf of Governor Bentley, I
21 have a proclamation presentation that
22 I'm going to present Tom. And I'm not
23 going to read the whole thing, but it's

1 in recognition of his exhibiting
2 outstanding skills as an outdoorsman,
3 consistently achieving multiple high and
4 highest honors in both Field and Stream
5 Total Outdoorsman Challenge and
6 Buckmasters Top Bow World Championship.

7 So, Tom, on behalf of Governor
8 Bentley, let me present you with this
9 proclamation. And then -- I get to do
10 these things too. Mine is a Certificate
11 of Recognition and worded very similarly
12 but, also, I think, significant and want
13 to congratulate you.

14 Representative Shiver has another
15 one. And Harry is going to pay for
16 framing all these for you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SHIVER: Tom, from the State
18 House of Representatives, we recognize
19 your skills, and we are proud to present
20 you with this proclamation. It says,
21 whereas, Tom Boatwright of Perdido,
22 Alabama, is a world-class archerer and a
23 top outdoorsman who has compiled an

1 outstanding record of achievement; and,
2 whereas, notably Mr. Boatwright won the
3 Field and Stream Total Outdoors
4 Challenge in 2009 and 2011, he has been
5 an automatic qualifier for the esteemed
6 competition since he first earned a spot
7 to compete; and, whereas, he has made a
8 top showing in many premier archery and
9 outdoors competitions through the years;
10 and, whereas, in 2012 he competed in a
11 reality TV competition that aired on the
12 Outdoor Channel and partook in events
13 that included the Little River State
14 Park Celebrity Shootout, the Alabama Bow
15 Hunt with Jackie Caudle, and POC Alumni
16 Bow Hunt in Kansas, and a Whitetail and
17 Mule Deer Hunt in Nebraska with Bass Pro
18 Shops and Allen Treadwell. He has
19 graced the cover of Field and Stream
20 magazine and is currently on a
21 13-episode television show produced by
22 Global Outfitters featuring Chris Reed.

23 I want to present you this

1 proclamation from the Alabama
2 Legislature, and with it,
3 congratulations.

4 (Crowd responds.)

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank y'all very much.

6 Boy, Alabama has got some good folks on
7 TV.

8 The next order of business is the
9 Commissioner's comments. I'd like to
10 call on Commissioner Guy.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm going to ask the board
12 to come down to the reserved seats
13 because I'm going to make a presentation
14 with PowerPoint and you're not going to
15 be able to see it.

16 While everybody is getting seated,
17 I've got a couple of things we're going
18 to talk about here on the PowerPoint.
19 But let me take an opportunity -- a lot
20 of people have questions about red
21 snapper season. It's been a hot topic,
22 and I want to address it quickly.

23 We're very unhappy with the federal

1 decision-makers on our red snapper
2 season, which is going to be reduced to
3 27 days. And we do at least get two
4 fish. They were talking about one
5 fish. So it's reduced from 40 last
6 year, which was bad enough, to 27.

7 We're trying to make as much noise
8 about that here in the state of Alabama,
9 the governor, myself. Marine Resources
10 through Chris Blankenship and his team
11 is trying to work with the other states
12 to try to get some attention. We think
13 that they are respectfully using the
14 wrong kind of criteria to determine how
15 many fish we should be able to catch and
16 how they make those decisions. We're
17 trying to see if we can get some
18 management out further than three
19 miles.

20 And I just wanted everybody to know
21 that has an interest in fishing at the
22 Gulf that we're doing everything we
23 possibly can within the restrictions of

1 the federal government to get there.
2 And we'll continue to fight that fight.
3 We're asking our congressional
4 delegation to try to address it at their
5 level. And we'll keep you posted. But
6 for right now, it appears that we're
7 going to have a 27-day season starting
8 June 1.

9 Is that right, Chris?

10 MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so Chris and his group
12 will continue to work on that.

13 And then, also, that I don't have
14 on -- up here is that -- I get a lot of
15 questions about dove season. Dove
16 season is very important to me. It's
17 very important to our board. I grew
18 up -- I grew up as a dove hunter. I
19 love hunting dove, as many of you do.
20 And we're -- we're working with the Fish
21 and Wildlife Service and, also, with our
22 own folks here in the state of Alabama
23 to try to make it a little easier to

1 dove hunt without worrying about whether
2 you're going to get caught or ticketed
3 for something; okay?

4 And, you know, our folks want it to
5 be easier too. Our enforcement folks,
6 you know, have to do their job, but we'd
7 like for it to be easier. And we're
8 working on that. And certainly that's
9 my goal is to make dove hunting, you
10 know, as good as it used to be.

11 Now, I can't control the doves that
12 much, but maybe I can control how we do
13 it. I can work -- not myself, but my
14 whole department can help control how we
15 do it so that it's a little bit easier
16 for you to understand what is allowed
17 and what is not allowed and feel good
18 about having hunts and inviting people
19 to those hunts and enjoying that with
20 your family and friends.

21 Okay. With that being said, I
22 wanted to talk first about a couple of
23 things we've got going on. We're going

1 to be talking today about many things,
2 but the first thing I'm going to talk
3 about is our reporting of deer and
4 turkey harvest that we're going to
5 propose to the board today. And there
6 are going to be three -- three ways of
7 doing it. You'll have an opportunity to
8 do it on an Outdoor Alabama app that
9 hopefully many of you have seen that
10 happen to have a smartphone. You'll be
11 able to do it on Outdooralabama.com,
12 your computer or your -- you know, some
13 form of a tablet. And we're going to be
14 able to do it on toll-free Voice
15 Response call using your phone. So --
16 next slide.

17 So many of you may have -- we sent
18 out some e-mails during the season,
19 worked with Alabama Interactive that
20 helps us -- and with our IT folks who
21 have been doing a great job. And we now
22 have -- if you happen to have a
23 smartphone or an Android, we have an

1 opportunity for you to have on your
2 phone -- and if you -- it's really
3 pretty neat -- an app.

4 And, look, I just learned about this
5 stuff. So if you don't know anything
6 about it, don't feel bad. But I have
7 one now and I really enjoy it.

8 This is kind of what it looks like.
9 This is the cover page. As you can see
10 at the bottom, you've got a home page,
11 hunting, fishing, trophies, and more.

12 Next slide, please.

13 Okay. So this is the hunting page.
14 You can go to this page, and as you can
15 tell, you can go directly to
16 regulations. So if you're in the field
17 or you're just curious, you can use your
18 phone just to find out what the
19 regulations are. You can get a license
20 on the app. You can actually just go
21 there, apply, provide the information,
22 and buy your license right there just
23 like you can on line. There's a section

1 for reporting your harvest, and then
2 there's a section for more links.

3 Go ahead, Mary Beth.

4 There's also a fishing -- one for
5 fishing. Same thing. Takes you to our
6 Website. You can see about fishing in
7 Alabama. You can get a license, either
8 freshwater or saltwater. You can learn
9 about either freshwater fishing
10 regulations or saltwater fishing
11 regulations there on your app.

12 All right. This is just kind of a
13 fun part right here more than anything.
14 For those that like to do that, there is
15 a place on there to do your trophies.
16 And you just go there. You can put your
17 picture in there. You can put a little
18 information about it, whether your
19 child, you, or somebody else has a
20 really nice animal or something.

21 And for those that know how to do
22 this -- and I don't -- you can, I think,
23 share it from this spot to Facebook and

1 other places. I don't have a Facebook
2 page. But for those that do and
3 understand how to do that, you can do
4 all that. So you can get your friends
5 involved, people in your club involved,
6 and y'all can share information about
7 your -- about deer or other game that
8 you may have harvested.

9 Okay. The last page is the "more"
10 page. We've got a few things here.
11 This will -- you know, all of this is a
12 little dynamic. We can change it. One
13 of them is "WMAs near me." The next
14 page -- we'll show that in a minute.

15 We've got the outdoor magazine on
16 there, the nature shop, public lands.
17 You can find out where there are public
18 lands or state lakes. You can go to the
19 state parks Website is connected in
20 here.

21 And then we also put on here the
22 feeding time and moon phases for those
23 that like to enjoy that or think that

1 that is important, which also applies to
2 both hunting and fishing. Sometimes
3 Curtis and I use that because it allows
4 us to get up later. We don't have to
5 get up early in the morning if that moon
6 phase says they don't start moving till
7 ten o'clock. We believe in that. So it
8 comes in handy for me, I'm going to tell
9 you. Anyway, it's kind of a neat thing,
10 and actually it works pretty good at
11 times, particularly if the weather is
12 cooperating. It didn't cooperate much
13 this year.

14 But the next page, Mary Beth,
15 please.

16 So this is just a little bit about
17 the "WMAs near me." You can put in --
18 it will -- what it will do on your
19 phone -- and I'm looking at these ladies
20 that know more about it. But I think
21 what it does, it knows where you are.
22 It GPS's -- your phone GPS's you. So if
23 you go to "WMAs near me" on your phone,

1 it's going to take you -- on the app,
2 it's got 10 miles, 20 miles, 50 miles or
3 all. In other words, you can pull up
4 either WMAs within those geographic
5 limitations or you can just pull up all
6 the WMAs in the state.

7 So in state, out of state,
8 residents, if you're interested in
9 hunting at a WMA, this will help you get
10 right to it, find out where it is. And
11 then there's information about those
12 WMAs actually on here as well.

13 So what we're trying to do is just
14 make the outdoor experience a little bit
15 nicer with this app for those that have
16 smartphones. And a lot of us don't.
17 But the way the industry seems to be
18 going, you're going to have one probably
19 sooner or later if you have a phone.
20 I mean, it kind of looks like that's the
21 way the industry is going. But for
22 those that do -- and a lot do -- these
23 are some nice features that just come in

1 handy for fishing and hunting.

2 All right. It's real easy to
3 download these apps. If you have an
4 iPhone, as somebody taught me, you just
5 go to the iPhone store, and you put in
6 Outdoor Alabama search. It will bring
7 it right up. And hit install and that's
8 it.

9 Same thing for Android, which I
10 don't have, but I'm pretty sure it's the
11 same thing. They have an Android
12 store. You just go to that store,
13 search for Outdoor Alabama, hit install,
14 and it's installed.

15 And it costs absolutely nothing by
16 the way. This doesn't cost a dime.
17 It's all part of the service that you
18 get. And the installation, unlike some
19 apps, is free. So it's free to get it,
20 free to use it. Hopefully it's
21 something that you'll enjoy having if
22 you don't have it already.

23 I think -- how many have we had so

1 far download that, Julie, just kind of
2 an approximation?

3 MS. PERRY: Over 5700 for the iPhone.

4 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just for the iPhone?

5 MS. PERRY: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER GUY: And I know that we got out
7 the Android late. The Android is a
8 little more complicated. But if you
9 have an Android -- actually, there's
10 more Androids out in the market than
11 there are iPhones. I want to say maybe
12 70 percent of the market is Droid --
13 Android.

14 Julie, is that about right?

15 MS. PERRY: That's about right.

16 COMMISSIONER GUY: So there's a lot more
17 people with Androids and -- but we do
18 have that app. It's just a -- it was a
19 tougher app to develop, I think, for the
20 Android market. But now we do have that
21 on the home page, right, for the Android
22 market to just go there and download;
23 right?

1 MS. PERRY: Right. It's in the store now, so
2 it's easy to download.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. When we first did
4 it, we sent out a link to it. And if
5 you were one of the first ones that got
6 that e-mail, you had to link to it. You
7 no longer have to do that now. You can
8 go directly to the Android store.
9 So, again, it's free.

10 All right. This here is -- this
11 particular one is just telling you
12 that -- what they do is provide
13 connections to our Web -- to our mobile
14 Website -- I mean, to our actual
15 Website. If you use an iPad or a tablet
16 or something like that for your game
17 check that we're fixing to talk about,
18 that's a -- that's your -- that's your
19 Website you go to. Or you can go
20 directly to our home page and get there
21 as well. There's many ways to get
22 there, but these are more direct links.

23 All right. Next one, please,

1 ma'am.

2 So this is what -- we've had a lot
3 of -- a lot of work on this, a lot of
4 hard work by the staff. We've had a lot
5 of input from the public on this. And
6 we believe that what we're proposing
7 here is something that will be good for
8 you and for us and it will be something
9 that a lot of people want and that's
10 reporting your deer harvest.

11 Right now, for instance, we don't --
12 I can't really tell you how many deer --
13 I live in Lowndes County, and I can't
14 really tell you how many deer have been
15 harvested there, whether it's does or
16 bucks, nor can we tell for any county
17 that you might live in or statewide.

18 Now, we have some methods that we do
19 it, but it's a little more about doing
20 surveys and then extrapolating those
21 numbers and doing that kind of thing.
22 And we'd like to add a tool -- what I
23 call a tool to the toolbox that's going

1 to help. And I think it's going to
2 be -- I think it's going to be important
3 to the public because it's going to be
4 of interest to you, and I think -- we've
5 had a lot of people say, well, we need
6 to do tags for the bucks and things, and
7 we hear that a lot. And tags are very
8 costly.

9 But this is another way that we can
10 do something that would actually help us
11 manage the deer herd better for you and,
12 also, get us information that is
13 important, while at the same time you
14 will have information readily accessible
15 to you that I think will be of great
16 interest for your areas where you hunt.
17 I'll give you some examples.

18 What we're going to do here is
19 that -- we're making it very simple.
20 Deer and turkey are the two primary big
21 game that we're concerned with. We're
22 not going to ask you to give harvest on
23 anything else. This is what they do in

1 other states. It's one of their tools.
2 And we think we can do it down here and
3 be very beneficial.

4 So in the season, within 24 hours,
5 okay, not immediately -- and we're going
6 to talk about -- not immediately -- you
7 have 24 hours to record your harvest.
8 Now, there's three deer questions and
9 two turkey questions. You can see them
10 right here on the screen. And all
11 you'll do is you can either -- one of
12 those three -- one of the three ways --
13 and we're going to go through them real
14 quick -- either by app or by -- on a
15 computer or by phone you'll do this --
16 you'll answer these questions.

17 So for deer harvesting, you'll have
18 a license number -- your hunting license
19 number, for instance, that you'll have
20 to put in. Right now we're talking
21 about mobile devices. So, obviously,
22 you'll have to type that in. The
23 gender, buck or doe, whether it's public

1 or private land, and then select a
2 county, enter it. And you're going to
3 get a confirmation code and that's it.

4 Okay. You'll record that
5 confirmation code, and that's pretty
6 simple. You can also -- you'll see here
7 in a minute. You can also just have
8 that confirmation code e-mailed to you.

9 Same thing with turkey, a little bit
10 easier. License number, jake or
11 adult -- because they're all supposed to
12 be, obviously, gobblers -- select the
13 county, submit the data, get a
14 confirmation number.

15 All right. Next page.

16 This is what you'll get. You'll get
17 a confirmation code. It will tell you
18 the date. And then if you want an
19 e-mailed confirmation, all you've got to
20 do is put in your e-mail address. Bam,
21 you got it.

22 All right. Next page.

23 All right. That was the app. Here

1 is -- you can go on line. For instance,
2 maybe you don't have coverage. If you
3 don't have an iPhone or something like
4 that but, say, you have a computer at
5 home, or if it's within 24 hours, you
6 can go to your office or work or
7 whatever you can do. You can go
8 directly to a computer. You pull up the
9 same Website that we talked about, or
10 you can go to Outdoor Alabama and we'll
11 get you there. I think we're going to
12 have this game check icon that you see
13 down here at the lower right-hand
14 corner. It'll be on our home page. All
15 you're going to have to do is click on
16 that icon, and it's going to take you to
17 this.

18 Once again, same questions.
19 Nothing's different. You just hit
20 report deer harvest if it's deer season,
21 hit report turkey harvest if it's turkey
22 season. Of course, feeding times and
23 moon phases, that's for -- seasonal

1 harvest report. I think I'm going to
2 talk about that in a minute.

3 Is there another page for that, or
4 do I talk about that now?

5 Okay. So the seasonal harvest
6 report is going to be what's going to be
7 interesting to you. So in realtime
8 we'll be gathering this information from
9 all the hunters in the state. And then
10 you can go to this harvest report. You
11 can see your own harvest. You can see
12 the harvest by county. You can see the
13 harvest by state. So you can see in
14 realtime basically the number of deer
15 that are being harvested in each county
16 and in the state. And you can, also, of
17 course, keep up with your information.
18 It'll be kept on line. So when you
19 harvest it, you pull up your license
20 number, and you can actually see what --
21 you know, what you've already done.

22 All right. Next page, please.

23 MS. PERRY: That's just the on-line form.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. That's just what I
2 was talking about. I was a little ahead
3 of you.

4 That's just the on-line form for --
5 that you -- it's just like the app. You
6 fill out the license number, the gender,
7 the location, and the county -- I mean,
8 the -- yeah, same thing for turkey.
9 It's really the same form.

10 Okay. Now, a lot of people will use
11 this. This is toll-free, meaning it
12 doesn't cost you a thing. There will be
13 a number. We haven't gotten the number
14 yet. It will be published when we come
15 out with everything next year.

16 But you'll have an "800" number that
17 you'll call if you don't have access
18 otherwise. Again, you've got 24 hours.
19 There will be some greetings that you
20 will -- that will initially happen when
21 you call the number. Have your license
22 number ready. I mean, these will be
23 things that once you get used to it, it

1 will be pretty secondhand.

2 Try to know the county that you're
3 in because you're going to need to have
4 to put in those first three or four
5 letters of the county. That's basically
6 the only way we can do it. Because
7 we're not going by voice. We're going
8 by what they call IVR, which is more
9 about entering the information.

10 You need, of course, to have a
11 pencil to write down your confirmation
12 number, but you should have a pencil
13 anyway because you know now that your
14 deer harvest record that you've got to
15 keep up with, you're going to have that
16 and you're supposed to have a pencil
17 with you to always be able to enter that
18 on your harvest record.

19 There will be a -- so you'll have
20 your number. There's a couple of things
21 that we -- we've about got it ready, but
22 you'll have your license number, of
23 course, if you just buy your license

1 either on line yearly or whatever. If
2 you're a lifetime license hunter, you'll
3 enter that in. And if you are an exempt
4 hunter, if you are under 16 or I believe
5 it's 65 or older or you're hunting on
6 your own land, then what you will do is
7 that we'll have a place where you will
8 go -- just like you do with your HIP for
9 migratory birds, you have to always go
10 if you're hunting migratory birds and
11 get a HIP number. You'll do the same
12 thing for deer or turkey. So that way
13 you'll have a unique number, even if
14 you're under 16, 65 or older. It won't
15 require anything. It's not going to
16 cost you a dime. You're just going to
17 have to go get it just like you do with
18 your HIP. And there will be a HIP or
19 state number.

20 So if you're one of those exempt
21 folks, this is the only way we can keep
22 up with it. So let's say you've got a
23 14-year-old, you know, that harvests a

1 deer. We want to know that he harvested
2 a buck or a doe or whatever he did or
3 how many he did. So we need to keep up
4 with those exempt folks just like we do
5 with anybody else to help us keep up
6 with deer, you know, management.

7 And this is basically what they
8 do -- well, this is not basically. This
9 is what they do in other states.
10 Everybody has a little different way of
11 doing it. Some of them just issue
12 numbers. We think this is going to work
13 very well, and we're -- we're hopeful
14 that once everybody gets used to it --
15 and I think they will. Everybody will
16 have a number. You take them hunting
17 and -- because now you still have to --
18 of course, as everybody knows, you still
19 have to record your buck harvest, even
20 if it's an exempt hunter or not. You've
21 got to have a piece of paper with you.
22 So it's the same kind of thing.

23 All right. Next -- okay. Most of

1 this stuff is just general information.
2 You're either going to either press one
3 or two. So it will say -- if you
4 said -- you know, buck, press one, that
5 kind of thing. You know, the next one,
6 caller will confirm entries with a yes
7 or no. That's really the only time you
8 have to speak. And you'll get two
9 attempts to provide the information. If
10 for some reason it doesn't work after
11 two attempts, it will just move forward
12 and give you a -- give you a
13 confirmation code. Because we're really
14 looking for the information.

15 So hopefully you will get the
16 majority of the information -- hopefully
17 we'll get all the information. There
18 will always be -- anytime you start
19 something -- a few bugs to work out.
20 You know, we know that. But we think
21 that we -- by the time we do this and we
22 publish this information to you guys it
23 will be worked out real well.

1 We think we've just about got it
2 worked out. We've been working on it
3 for quite some time now. And we've used
4 models in other states. I mean, no use
5 in creating the wheel. This is the
6 model that most people go with now. So
7 most people don't have tags anymore.
8 They're just way too expensive.

9 The information is what's
10 important. We will use it as a tool for
11 law enforcement, but primarily we need
12 it to try to help manage the herd. But
13 you have to make it a regulation. So
14 it's going to be a regulation just like
15 the five-buck limit and --

16 (Crowd responds.)

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Three-buck. I was thinking
18 about Moultrie's -- I'm sorry.
19 Three-buck limit. Thank you.
20 Enforcement is always on top of this.

21 That was like Dan said on "Rick and
22 Bubba" the other day, that the hunting
23 season this year was going to end on

1 January 31st at midnight. He did say
2 that.

3 Next, again, you'll get a
4 confirmation code which will be a unique
5 code for each harvest. And that will be
6 your record that, you know, you'll need
7 to keep along with, you know, keeping up
8 with your three-buck limit and
9 everything, but for bucks and does.
10 We've got to get that doe information as
11 well as the buck information.

12 All right. Let's go to the next
13 one.

14 All right. So for those that will
15 buy their license, which is the majority
16 of you, each year on line or at a
17 Wal-Mart or whatever, Academy Sports or
18 one of those stores that sell it, you
19 know, you get -- you usually get it and
20 it's got information -- the left-hand
21 corner is usually what it's got there.
22 We're going to add to that the
23 confirmation number there for the

1 bucks. So you're not going to get any
2 more bucks this year, obviously, even
3 though what I said. No more bucks. So
4 you'll have a confirmation number.
5 You'll enter that in that area, harvest
6 date.

7 Now, for the unantlered deer we've
8 got five places over there. And we just
9 took five as a number because -- we're
10 not restricting you to five, but we're
11 just trying to put it on the front
12 page. Because some people don't kill
13 that many does. So that's just a
14 starting spot for five. I'm going to
15 explain in a minute. The turkey will be
16 at the bottom. The same thing,
17 confirmation number.

18 If you kill more than five does,
19 which is, you know, in a lot of Alabama
20 allowed, all you do is turn that paper
21 on the other side, keep it in your
22 possession, and just write it on the
23 back. Because all the officer is going

1 to do is just, you know, ask you, and
2 all he wants to know is that
3 confirmation number.

4 So if you kill ten does, you'll just
5 turn on the back and have a harvest date
6 and a confirmation number so if you're
7 asked. And then he has -- that
8 enforcement officer can readily, you
9 know, pull up that information for bucks
10 or does and ask you about it. If it
11 hasn't been 24 hours, he might say,
12 well, let's go ahead and get you a
13 confirmation number now.

14 Okay. But, again, this is not just
15 about enforcement. This is about
16 getting the information that we need.
17 So what we're asking you to do is just
18 take a step that you haven't been having
19 to do before; and, that is, for those
20 unantlered deer just call it in, help us
21 out. And I think it's important that we
22 do that.

23 All right. Next slide.

1 All right. So that is a proposal
2 for the game check. I'm going to talk
3 real quickly about the extension or
4 shifting of the deer season. It's not
5 really an extension because everybody is
6 getting the same number of days. We're
7 going to shift the season in a portion
8 of the state. And then there's another
9 area, and it's going to be in southwest
10 Alabama. So go ahead and get that real
11 quick.

12 Okay. This is the map that we have
13 for the proposal this year. Briefly I'm
14 going to state, which I've said many
15 times in the press and everything, that
16 this wasn't arbitrarily picked out or
17 anything. We have to -- we have to --
18 we listened to the public and we've
19 heard from the public about, you know,
20 we're not -- we don't think we're
21 getting to hunt the rut.

22 So what we've got here is -- with
23 our wildlife section and everybody

1 involved, we have some information on
2 deer data, fetal studies about when the
3 rut occurs in Alabama. We have good
4 information in this area that we -- that
5 we have a comfort level with that we can
6 extend the season and we won't hurt the
7 resource. And we spent a lot of time on
8 this. And it's not to say there may not
9 be other areas in Alabama that will
10 warrant this in the near future, but we
11 don't have the information nor the data
12 that's needed to support it at this
13 time.

14 Let me be clear. That doesn't mean
15 that there's areas -- I've heard from a
16 lot of people and I hear you. I live in
17 Lowndes County. Just as an example,
18 Lowndes County, myself included, might
19 say, hey, we got a late rut in Lowndes
20 County. I see it all the time. I don't
21 know, though, that for sure because
22 I haven't seen any data really collected
23 in Lowndes County except on one WMA.

1 So the same thing in other parts of
2 the state. Don't look at maps and
3 think, oh, well, you've got some data
4 here. It may be a little data. You
5 know, a small sample is not going to
6 give you a true picture. We need to get
7 enough data that we get a true picture.
8 And if you're right and it's warranted
9 in that county -- and I'll just use
10 Choctaw for an example right now. We've
11 got a little portion of Choctaw -- but
12 let's say Choctaw or the rest of Clark
13 or Dallas or somewhere else or over in
14 the east part of the state. We'll get
15 there when we have data that supports
16 it.

17 We don't -- neither -- neither my
18 department, all my -- the folks that
19 work in the department for you nor you
20 want us to make a mistake and somehow
21 damage our resources that are so
22 valuable to us. So look at the glass
23 half full, not half empty. We'll get

1 there if it's warranted.

2 And so we've just got -- you've got
3 to give us time. We're making, you
4 know, progress toward what we think is
5 responding to what y'all think is good
6 for you that make the hunting experience
7 better, but we've got to make sure we do
8 it right. We have to balance that
9 hunting experience against what's best
10 for the resource. I think everybody in
11 this room believes that. We can't
12 afford to lose it.

13 All right. So, again, what we did
14 here is we've got some good
15 information. You can see on the
16 easternmost part, goes up 331, 84. It
17 follows the line up there and goes up
18 through parts of Covington County, takes
19 in some of Conecuh County, some of
20 Butler, Wilcox, comes back down. You
21 might say, well, why does it look like
22 that?

23 Well, we followed some natural

1 boundaries. It's much easier for our
2 enforcement people and for the public if
3 we use natural boundaries and not county
4 lines. Again, and we're learning from
5 what other people do. So we followed
6 natural boundaries, usually major
7 highways or in a couple of cases
8 rivers. So that's where we -- that's
9 why we picked out what we did.

10 So this would be the proposal for
11 next year for this area is to shift the
12 season ten days into February from --
13 what we would do, though -- because
14 we're not giving you more days than
15 anybody else -- we're going to take ten
16 days out of December, which usually for
17 most people it's pretty quiet anyway.
18 I think we're looking at around the 2nd
19 through the 11th. So we would subtract
20 ten days, and you couldn't hunt --
21 you're not going to be able to hunt
22 there.

23 Now, let me mention this. On

1 private land -- again, we're not giving
2 you extra bucks. So you're not going to
3 get -- you know, if you've already
4 killed your three bucks, extending the
5 season is not going to do you much good
6 unless you want to harvest does. And
7 I've had some people say, well, we don't
8 need to be killing does. On private
9 land, that's your responsibility.

10 You're supposed to be helping manage the
11 resource -- your land yourself. So if
12 you don't need to kill does or don't
13 want to kill does, don't kill does. On
14 public lands, our staff will be managing
15 the public lands according to what is
16 needed there or what is warranted
17 there. So there may be public lands
18 where we will not allow a doe harvest.

19 Conecuh National Forest is part of
20 this, and I don't believe there will be
21 any doe harvested on that. I know that
22 for sure. And then on some of our WMAs
23 or other public hunting lands, that will

1 be managed by our department in
2 accordance with the way they need to
3 manage that property for your best
4 interest.

5 So, again, this is our -- this is
6 our point for starting next year. Our
7 staff is already getting prepared to
8 look at other counties to collect -- to
9 collect important data on fetal studies
10 to see when, you know, the rut occurs.
11 And we'll be producing all that
12 information every time we get it so that
13 you'll have some of that.

14 But our staff is working real hard
15 to get the information. We're working,
16 you know, harder than they've ever
17 worked. They're doing, you know, a
18 really good job. And we're going to be
19 working with private landowners who are
20 willing to share information that may
21 have that. We're going to be working
22 with others as well. So every resource
23 we can use, we will use, but we've got

1 to make sure the information is accurate
2 and justifiable.

3 Okay. Next one.

4 This is just that inset that shows
5 you how it comes up Highway 55 and that
6 area around Georgiana. It just shows
7 you where we used natural boundaries.
8 If there is any confusion, we just had
9 an inset in there, and that will be
10 published.

11 All right. Next slide.

12 So as we looked at the issue about
13 shifting the season in southwest
14 Alabama, there's also been expressed to
15 us an issue with the herd in north
16 Alabama not being as great as it has
17 been in the past. I know there's been
18 some EHD issues up there. So our
19 biologists have been working with the
20 public. They've been looking at
21 information and talking to folks. And,
22 anyway, there's a proposal for reduction
23 of doe harvest in a defined area of

1 north Alabama.

2 Can we go to that?

3 Okay. So this is -- this is an area
4 of north Alabama that we would have a
5 restricted unantlered deer season. Now,
6 for the rest of the state there is no
7 proposal to reduce doe harvest. Only
8 this particular area. And it's for --
9 y'all help me out. It's just for gun
10 season; correct?

11 So it's for gun season. And it will
12 be a reduction from two does to one doe,
13 and it will be -- and it will be a
14 reduction in the number of days as
15 well.

16 Now, it will not affect your bow
17 hunting. It won't affect, I guess, any
18 primitive weapon hunting or that kind of
19 thing. And it doesn't affect any of the
20 public lands, does it, Gary?

21 MR. MOODY: No.

22 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. So this is for
23 private property.

1 And a lot of it has to do with
2 habitat. We've had some big problems
3 with EHD and that kind of thing up there
4 in that area. And so this is a proposal
5 as well to reduce the harvest -- this is
6 all about managing the deer. It's for
7 you. And the natural resources are
8 dynamic. Everybody knows that. Just
9 like every year is different, the herd
10 is different. You can have a breakout
11 of EHD or something like that. And we
12 need to know about it and react to it
13 quickly or we may make a mistake and
14 overharvest. Turkeys, the same way.
15 Other states have had problems where
16 they didn't realize it till too late.

17 That's why we want this reporting
18 system, so we can keep up with kind of
19 the numbers in realtime. And if we see
20 a real decline, we can react to it and
21 adjust the season and bag limits
22 accordingly. That's what we're trying
23 to do.

1 Okay. Is that it?

2 Okay. Real quick -- and then we'll
3 resume here -- I just wanted to mention
4 that we do have a deer management
5 program. We're going to publish
6 something about our goals and
7 objectives, and the staff is working on
8 that right now. We'll get that out to
9 the public. It kind of -- it kind of
10 follows along with all this, and it
11 follows along with us trying to get out
12 and talk to the public and, also, put in
13 a written form what we think is what you
14 want and what we need to do. And so
15 we're going to try to get that out soon
16 as well.

17 And the last thing that I will
18 mention is that there has been a lot of
19 discussion in the legislature about
20 this, and we believe -- and I've told my
21 legislative friends, like Mr. Shiver,
22 who I think believe the same thing, that
23 it's our responsibility as the

1 conservation department for you to
2 handle these things and not let the
3 legislature do it if we're doing it
4 right. So we're trying to -- not do it
5 because of them. They bring it to our
6 attention just like you do. And we're
7 trying to address it in the right way,
8 and I think Representative Shiver and
9 others support us in that.

10 There's also been issues about
11 supplemental feeding or baiting or
12 whatever you want to call it. And we're
13 also going to talk today maybe and make
14 a proposal about defining area.

15 Somewhat similar to doves, we want to
16 set the expectations for the public in a
17 way that our officers and you know what
18 you can and can't do. So the way to do
19 that is there's no -- there's no problem
20 with supplemental feeding in Alabama as
21 the law stands right now. You can
22 supplemental feed all year long, but you
23 know that you cannot bait to lure an

1 animal in for the purposes of killing
2 that animal. So that's the law.

3 What you can do, though, is you can
4 still supplemental feed, but nobody
5 knows where you can or you can't do that
6 still on your property if you're doing
7 it during the season. But what we can
8 do is we can define that area, which has
9 been done in many other states.

10 And I'm not here to make a proposal
11 on that. The board is going to consider
12 public input on that. But we will
13 probably address the issue, which has
14 been -- again, been brought up in the
15 legislature many times. So apparently
16 the legislature thinks it's important
17 enough, what they hear from their
18 constituents, as to what is a defined
19 area. In most cases it's a certain
20 number of yards away from where you're
21 hunting and out of sight. That's just a
22 general kind of rule of thumb about how
23 it's been addressed in other states like

1 Georgia and Mississippi and others that
2 don't allow baiting.

3 So what we hope there is it will
4 give our law enforcement a bright-line
5 test for saying you are hunting over
6 bait and, therefore, give you a ticket
7 or you are not. It will give you a
8 bright-line test for determining --
9 you'll know then that I've got to be so
10 many yards away and it's got to be out
11 of sight, and then our officers will act
12 accordingly. And so it's going to
13 hopefully take away some of those issues
14 that have been a problem where people
15 still want to supplemental feed their
16 deer during the season.

17 Now, we're not going to change this
18 for turkey. No baiting of turkey; all
19 right? But there's other issues that
20 relate to biology and everything, so
21 that's not on the table.

22 But the point is, we're going to try
23 to address this. We think it's just

1 time to do that, clear it up, and
2 hopefully take ownership and control of
3 something that we need to take ownership
4 and control of rather than having to put
5 that issue on Mr. Shiver's back.

6 Okay. So thank y'all for giving me
7 a little extra time today. I appreciate
8 your patience and your respect for me
9 putting this up here. But now we're
10 going to resume our board meeting.
11 Thank you very much.

12 While everybody is coming back up, I
13 failed to mention two things -- or two
14 people that I need to mention.

15 Number one, where is Greg Lein?

16 Greg, would you stand up. Greg Lein
17 is our new Parks director. We welcome
18 Greg to his job as Parks director. He's
19 got a tough job ahead of him. He's
20 going to be expecting money from Harry
21 to help with the parks which are so
22 valuable to our state and our state's
23 economy.

1 And, next, we've got a new Wildlife
2 and Freshwater Fisheries director.
3 Chuck, would you stand up. Chuck
4 Sykes.

5 We're excited to have Chuck in his
6 role as director of Wildlife and
7 Freshwater Fisheries. Many of you have
8 probably read about Chuck maybe in the
9 press releases. He's going to -- we're
10 looking forward to his expertise and
11 leadership, and he's going to be doing a
12 great job for the department. And so
13 I'll quit having to use Curtis Jones to
14 run those places like he has been.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Guy
17 Commissioner.

18 COMMISSIONER GUY: If there's anybody outside,
19 we do have these spaces down here.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If there's anybody
21 standing outside that would like a seat,
22 there's spaces available on the front
23 row.

1 Commissioner, I saw one -- before we
2 get off all of your presentation, one of
3 the board members looked a little
4 puzzled on your -- on filling out the
5 tags on turkeys, Commissioner. You
6 know, we have an avid turkey hunter,
7 Mr. Hatley, and I don't know if he knew
8 the -- I know he knows the jakes, but he
9 looked a little confused where you put
10 down an adult, Commissioner. So you may
11 want to talk to Mr. Hatley about that.

12 Thank you for arriving late,
13 Mr. Hatley.

14 All right. The next order of
15 business is the public hearing. When
16 your name is called, please go to the
17 microphone and give your name and
18 subject you wish to speak upon. I will
19 remind you that you may only speak at
20 the time that you're called and any
21 interference will not be tolerated.

22 The first speaker today is Mr. Pete
23 Barber. Pete.

1 MR. BARBER: Mr. Chairman, I'll go ahead and
2 waive that. Since Dr. Shipp is on the
3 injured reserve list this meeting, I
4 don't feel it necessary.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much,
6 Mr. Barber.
7 Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER GUY: I would just ask David to
9 move that microphone back a little bit.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
12 Mr. Avery Bates.

13 MR. BATES: Good evening. My name is Avery
14 Bates, vice-president of Organized
15 Seafood Association. Been before the
16 board many times in the past.

17 We want to thank the board and the
18 Commissioner for defending our
19 constitutional rights, the last few
20 years especially, by not putting special
21 status on sheepshead, sports -- gamefish
22 status on that, also pompano, also
23 Spanish mackerel, and any other species

1 that's taken away from the public that
2 comes up in the future.

3 Remember, the fish that we catch
4 belongs to everybody in the state. And
5 many times we've had fish taken away
6 from us unconstitutionally, which is
7 bad. We've had areas taken away from
8 us. The bottoms of the water and the
9 water belongs to the people of the
10 state. We need to continue harvesting
11 these areas for everybody and they can
12 only buy it through a licensed
13 commercial fisherman, which we are.

14 So we thank the board, Commissioner,
15 and especially our new director, who's
16 not too new -- he's been there quite a
17 while -- Chris Blankenship, who has been
18 going all over the country advertising
19 how good wild-caught seafood is. Chris
20 has been doing a great job.

21 We want to increase our oyster
22 bottoms. We want to work with the state
23 to try to get Grand Bay upgraded to a

1 different water stage working with the
2 board of health. Put the request in
3 this past year to instead of eight-foot
4 level, to get the data to maybe raise it
5 to eight-and-a-half or nine-and-a-half
6 feet so that we can oyster in some of
7 these areas in the future.

8 We have NRDA money coming down.
9 Y'all are familiar with that. We put
10 requests in to get more oyster reefs.
11 Because if you have more oyster reefs,
12 you have better water quality. You have
13 more fish. You have more other
14 creatures out there that everybody
15 benefits from.

16 So keep in mind, keep our people
17 fishing. Keep the resources for
18 everybody, not just one user group. The
19 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Act 301 has ten
20 national standards. Let's make sure we
21 split these things up right, whether
22 it's snapper, sheepshead, whatever
23 species. Let the people of the state,

1 whether in Huntsville or the other parts
2 of the state, continue to enjoy these
3 species. Don't give it more so to one
4 side of the user group or the other
5 side.

6 We sure thank you. And we want to
7 keep cooking for all the agriculture
8 people, John, over there at Point
9 Clear. We enjoyed that. We want to
10 cook for Buckmasters. And I want y'all
11 to know, these people at Buckmasters and
12 this special hunt, Wounded Warriors and
13 the terminally ill, they need to have
14 every access and every tool available.
15 When you see a crippled person from his
16 head down be able to kill a deer and
17 watch the expression, everything that
18 can be added to that experience -- I've
19 witnessed it. It's a tremendous
20 benefit.

21 MS. JONES: Time.

22 MR. BATES: It's great to be able to cook them
23 seafood too. Thank y'all very much.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
2 Randy Blelew.

3 MR. BLELEW: Hi. I'm a little hoarse. Thank
4 you for your time today. I'm here to
5 talk about the harvest of catfish and
6 managing on the Tennessee River.

7 We have a group of commercial
8 fishermen that has come in from out of
9 state and fishing three to 5,000 hooks.
10 Their harvest rate per day -- and
11 they're fishing seven days a week -- is
12 anywhere from 2,000 or better. And that
13 was four years ago. Now it's down to
14 like a thousand or better.

15 So our harvest is really on a
16 decline. It needs help for all the
17 future fishermen -- like he was talking,
18 for everybody to get to use it. And my
19 proposal is to cut it down to ten trot
20 lines, 100 hooks instead of the 500
21 hooks that they're using, and limit the
22 days they can go, weekends for everybody
23 else to be able to fish, the

1 rod-and-reel fishermens, and just manage
2 it in some kind of way where it's not
3 overharvested and it's for everybody.

4 Thank y'all.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
6 Leslie Kilgore.

7 MS. KILGORE: Hello. My name is Leslie
8 Kilgore. If you'll please locate your
9 packet that's bound like this. I
10 believe 11 of you will have them.
11 Someone will make a friend.

12 I would like to talk about
13 potentially modifying the law that
14 governs the pets that can be kept in
15 Alabama. Specifically I'm concerned
16 about the foxes. Now, of course, I'm
17 not talking about going out into the
18 wild and, you know, taking foxes from
19 their parents. That is absolutely not
20 what I am talking about.

21 There are domestic foxes in the
22 world that are genetically domestic.
23 Their lineage can be traced back to the

1 '50s, in fact. And, also, there are
2 tame foxes that exist that have been
3 raised and bred for many generations in
4 America. And the domestic ones that are
5 in Russia, there's a specific dealer
6 institute that they are interested in
7 doing this experiment to see how long it
8 could take basically to mimic how dogs
9 and wolves eventually came into being.

10 Unfortunately, the project is very
11 broke, so it will sell these animals as
12 pets. And, unfortunately, it's so broke
13 that the animals that they aren't able
14 to sell as pets are sold for their fur.
15 So I would like for them to be legalized
16 in Alabama so that we can help protect
17 them. If they -- there's simply no
18 money to feed them. So if there's
19 someone here that can help with that to
20 take up the slack, I would like to be
21 able to do that.

22 That's a very broad overview. Are
23 there any specific questions you have?

1 I know that there's usually a
2 concern about invasive species, and I
3 have addressed that in this packet. I
4 can go into more detail if you would
5 like.

6 DR. STRICKLAND: How many animals -- how many
7 animals are you referring to, numbers?

8 MS. KILGORE: The experiment originally kept
9 about a thousand at a time. However, in
10 about 1998 when they lost their funding,
11 they had to destroy 900 foxes all at
12 once. They usually keep about 100 now.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: So it's about a hundred foxes
14 that you're referring to that are up for
15 adoption?

16 MS. KILGORE: Oh, no, not that are all up for
17 adoption at once. They usually give
18 about eight or 15 that are up for
19 adoption every year.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Kilgore.

21 The next speaker will be David
22 Sullivan.

23 MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you very much. My name

1 is David Sullivan. I'm from Tuscaloosa
2 County. And, actually, I work for
3 Buckmasters here in Montgomery. I run a
4 nationwide program where we assist
5 people with disabilities and critical
6 illnesses.

7 Over the years we've taken out about
8 4,000, 5,000 people, and we've worked
9 over the years with a lot of individuals
10 who are blind and have other various
11 illnesses where the use of a laser sight
12 to hunt may benefit these people.

13 And before I get into this too
14 deeply, I want to say that in my
15 Internet research, looking at all the
16 things on line, I found a lot of
17 situations where people are freaking
18 out. Oh, yeah, now we've got blind
19 people running around in the woods with
20 laser sights. It's not like that.

21 In my packet here I've outlined how
22 blind people hunt. We've had hundreds
23 of them over the years. They hunt with

1 assistants. They always have someone
2 with them to serve as their eyes. And
3 I'm not blind. Nobody in my family is
4 blind. But if I were, I would want to
5 know that they had the opportunity to
6 hunt and a way to do it that wasn't so
7 expensive or so difficult.

8 And the two methods that they use
9 right now are an over-shoulder method,
10 which if you'll look in your packet, the
11 first photograph is a sight I came up
12 with, or a bracket, about 20 years ago.
13 It offsets the scope. And it works
14 quite well, but it's hard because the
15 sight -- the helper has to get in an
16 exact position that's behind the
17 shooter. Your setups are limited. The
18 thing is easy to knock off. You can
19 imagine trying to put that in a gun
20 case. But we've also been using some
21 video equipment that actually looks
22 through the scope so the person
23 assisting can help. And this equipment

1 is 700 to \$2,000 apiece.

2 And so the main reason I'm here is
3 to try to just get the -- I believe
4 it's -- I don't have my section with me,
5 but it's a section of the Code that
6 prohibits laser sights -- and just have
7 an exemption in there for our disabled
8 hunters that need to use those.

9 You know, the State of Alabama has
10 done a great job over the years of
11 keeping up with the laws that actually
12 make it possible for people with
13 physical disabilities to get out in the
14 woods, and I just think we need to look
15 at that. There are four states -- their
16 wording is included in the packet --
17 that specifically have it set up so that
18 blind persons and some other disabled
19 persons can use a laser sight to hunt
20 with. Those states are Florida, Texas,
21 Wisconsin, and Michigan. And in my
22 research I found five other states where
23 anybody could hunt with a laser sight.

1 But that's pretty much my proposal.
2 And I -- another reason I'm here is I
3 promised a young man -- he had become
4 blind over a medical procedure that went
5 wrong. And his mom went out and bought
6 him a laser sight, and they got to where
7 they could shoot. Then they found out
8 they couldn't use it. And I promised
9 them I'd come up here today and talk to
10 you guys about this.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a question.

12 Mr. Jones.

13 MR. JONES: Are you suggesting just for blind
14 people or what level of disability?

15 You mentioned disability, but --

16 MR. SULLIVAN: Well, yeah. There are people
17 that use mechanical gun mounts that
18 actually -- people that are paralyzed
19 from the neck down can hunt. They can
20 control it with motors, and they have a
21 switch that does the trigger. It has a
22 built-in safety mechanism. But you can
23 imagine this thing sitting out in front

1 of you and it has to turn. Well, you
2 can't keep your head lined up on the
3 scope. So we either have to go with a
4 video system or a laser sight would be a
5 lot cheaper alternative for those type
6 people. And I included that in my
7 package there.

8 MR. JONES: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

10 MR. HARTZOG: Gunter, what -- you know, I hate
11 to -- I'm in favor of allowing the blind
12 to be able to enjoy the sport just like
13 we do. Would it be appropriate to maybe
14 get David to write a regulation that
15 would fly to present to us at the next
16 meeting?

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. I mean, I think this
18 is something that we need to look at and
19 we should look at. And I appreciate him
20 bringing it to our attention. And we
21 could certainly take -- you've done a
22 very good job of providing us the laws
23 from other states. Let us take a look

1 at that. What I would ask and then we
2 could present it at the next meeting is
3 what we think the -- you know, initially
4 it looks like a very good idea, and I
5 don't see why we can't do it. But I
6 certainly want to consult with my staff,
7 as you would want me to, and let's see
8 any problems that might exist.

9 It's more not of doing it, but what
10 is the fallout from that that we might
11 not be aware of. So I don't think the
12 concept is a problem. I just think we
13 need to look at it, and I think that
14 he's provided us a good basis for that.
15 And I'm going to ask the staff to do
16 that. We'll take that up right away.

17 MR. HARTZOG: And present it at the next
18 meeting?

19 COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure, absolutely.

20 MR. HARTZOG: Thank you.

21 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, sir, I'd be glad to do
22 that.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

1 Any other questions?

2 Dr. Strickland.

3 DR. STRICKLAND: A couple of questions.

4 Is there any limitations with a
5 laser sight such as range or --

6 MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, sir. It's not a
7 cure-all. And I don't even have a
8 laser sight. But in my research, in
9 talking to some of the other blind
10 individuals in other states that use
11 them, a green laser in bright daylight
12 is only visible up to a certain
13 distance, maybe 70, 80 yards in bright
14 sunlight. That is a restriction. But
15 since deer move mainly in the -- early
16 and late, you know, it would still open
17 up a world of opportunity, you know, for
18 people.

19 I've even had some kids that, you
20 know, hunt with -- they hunt with an
21 assistant, but they would actually be
22 able to see a green dot on an animal
23 possibly. So, you know, it's just --

1 it's just another way to get people
2 involved in the outdoors.

3 DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

5 MR. DOBBS: How many people are afflicted like
6 this that you are aware of roughly?

7 MR. SULLIVAN: You know, I didn't do any
8 research because there certainly aren't
9 any statistics on how many blind people
10 hunt. But I've -- you know, over the
11 years I've encountered probably a
12 hundred to 150, you know, nationwide,
13 and I'm sure there's several dozen in
14 Alabama that do this that I know of.

15 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

17 MR. SULLIVAN: Can I make one more comment?

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, sir.

19 MR. SULLIVAN: I guess -- and another thing to
20 add on to your question, sir, was that
21 how many more people out there are there
22 that might be motivated to get out and
23 hunt if it was a lot easier, you know,

1 to use some other type of equipment.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

3 Okay. The next speaker will be

4 Rusty Morrow.

5 MR. MORROW: My name is Rusty Morrow. I'm
6 executive director of the Conservation
7 Enforcement Officers Association. And
8 I'm just mainly following David Sullivan
9 about the importance of possibly this
10 laser issue.

11 My House of Representative, David
12 Colston, was here, and I don't see David
13 now. David had a dog in the fight on
14 the lines in Wilcox County and how the
15 line was divided. So he may have --

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: David had to leave.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: He talked to me.

18 MR. MORROW: Right. Okay. But I wanted to --
19 if he was still here, I wanted to
20 recognize him. He's in District 69.

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Absolutely. Very
22 supportive.

23 MR. MORROW: At the Life Hunt Classic over in

1 Dallas County in January I had the
2 unique opportunity to watch a young girl
3 that was blind harvest a deer, and her
4 joy was not any less than what yours or
5 I's would be that could see except she
6 felt it. She was able to put her hands
7 on it. She couldn't see the deer. And
8 she harvested a beautiful deer over
9 there at Sedgefield. But she could feel
10 it.

11 And we should never restrict these
12 because they are blind and give them as
13 much opportunity as we can to do it.
14 And I think you'd probably see with some
15 easier, less expensive apparatuses
16 coming out -- and David did an excellent
17 job on this presentation, and I've been
18 back and forth with him on e-mail on
19 things we needed to do.

20 But I would support this not because
21 I'm executive director of the
22 Conservation Enforcement Officers
23 Association but as an individual. I

1 don't see -- I was in law enforcement
2 25 years. I don't see anything that
3 would prevent law enforcement from being
4 able to regulate it to some extent.
5 It's a pretty easy deal.

6 So I appreciate your time. I
7 appreciate David. David works hard.
8 And I appreciate Avery. Good gracious,
9 the food they bring to that Life Hunt
10 Classic over there makes me get bigger
11 and bigger. And David and Avery both,
12 they see the good that's done over
13 there, and it's quite an event.

14 We sponsored Corporal David Brown, a
15 motorcycle policeman -- our association
16 did -- a motorcycle policeman injured in
17 a motorcycle wreck and lost an arm and a
18 leg. And David later on was able to
19 harvest a nice deer too.

20 But we appreciate y'all. I'm glad
21 to see that the extension of the season
22 is back. So thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be

1 Jason Knight.

2 MR. KNIGHT: Good day. I'm Jason Knight. I'm
3 with the Bowhunters of Alabama, and we
4 would just like to thank the Department
5 of Conservation for working with us in
6 areas like urban deer control programs.
7 We've had a couple of urban deer control
8 programs throughout the state. We would
9 like to look at expanding those
10 programs, you know, as needed, in
11 different parks and areas throughout the
12 state.

13 Alabama has a strong bowhunting
14 heritage. We've got a long season. And
15 we appreciate the department looking out
16 for us when they're changing rules and
17 regulations throughout the state. So,
18 anyway, the Bowhunters of Alabama would
19 like to thank the department and look
20 forward to working with y'all in 2013.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
23 Tyler Boulo. Excuse me if I butchered

1 that.

2 MR. BOULO: You did, but everybody else does
3 too.

4 I'm Tyler Boulo from Mobile and I'm
5 a landowner and I want to talk about
6 dove hunting. I hunt mainly in Mobile,
7 north Baldwin, and Escambia Counties.
8 And the season opens pretty early, when
9 it's hot, and opening day we had a
10 pretty good season. But all of our
11 birds were pretty immature and very
12 small. And due to all the harvesting we
13 had, they pretty much scattered after
14 that. And even though I had cornfields,
15 peanut fields, sunflowers, I didn't have
16 another decent hunt until late
17 November. Near the end of the year,
18 late December, we had plenty of feed,
19 plenty of migratory birds, had good
20 hunting, no season left.

21 I know some of the south Baldwin
22 people like an early season, and I would
23 like to propose, say, nine days/two

1 weekends for September, October when
2 it's hot and you can't hunt. Shove the
3 rest of the days as late as we can in
4 the season according to the federal
5 regulations when it's cool and the
6 migratory birds are coming in. A lot
7 better hunting. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Rob
9 Constantine.

10 MR. CONSTANTINE: All right. I'm Rob
11 Constantine. I'm from Mobile, Alabama,
12 and I hunt doves also. And I wrote a
13 letter to you, Commissioner Guy, end of
14 last year and copied Chairman Moultrie
15 and the members of the board that are in
16 my area. But for the benefit of the
17 rest of the board, I'd like to tell them
18 how I feel about this situation.

19 I'm a third-generation dove hunter.
20 I've been hunting birds here for 50
21 years. And having that many
22 opportunities to hunt, I know a little
23 bit about what it takes to have a

1 productive hunt, especially when trying
2 to keep our youth involved in hunting.

3 We plant crops specifically for the
4 dove. We plant corn, sunflowers, and
5 millet so that we have an abundant food
6 supply for the birds. I'm not an
7 advocate of hunting these birds in
8 September because it's just simply too
9 hot. Most of them are small, they're
10 immature, and they're an easy target.

11 It's so hot and dry in September.
12 It's not very conducive to hunting,
13 especially for the hunter or the dog.
14 They get exhausted pretty easily. I do
15 understand that there's hunters in this
16 state that want to hunt in September
17 because they have an abundance of food
18 available during their local harvest.
19 And I feel that if the board wants to
20 give those folks an opportunity to hunt,
21 nine days encompassing two weekends for
22 September is more than adequate in my
23 opinion.

1 I've talked to a lot of people that
2 hunt both in Mobile County and in
3 Baldwin County, and none of them
4 advocate 30 days -- a need for 30 days
5 of a season in September. They say two
6 weekends/nine days is more than
7 sufficient.

8 October is not much different than
9 September except that there's less food
10 available for them. It's still very hot
11 in October. But if the board wants to
12 give them a few days in October, I think
13 nine days is more than adequate
14 encompassing two weekends so they get
15 two weekends to hunt.

16 Most of the hunters that I know
17 prefer hunting a more mature bird later
18 in the year when it's cool or cold in
19 late December and January. This is due
20 to the fact that these northern birds
21 don't move south, especially in south
22 Alabama, until we have some blowing cold
23 fronts come through which drops the

1 temperature and then we have some snow
2 deposited to the states that are north
3 of us. Then we get the benefits of
4 those birds moving south. Once that
5 occurs, we'll have birds in the area as
6 long as there's food available for
7 them.

8 This past season on January the 5th
9 we still had standing crops. We had
10 plenty of birds and no season left. All
11 that I ask the board to do is just give
12 us the maximum opportunity to take
13 advantage of those migratory birds when
14 they're here later in the year.

15 In closing, let me say that I
16 understand that the resources of the
17 state belong to everybody in this
18 state. But people like myself would --

19 MS JONES: Time.

20 MR. CONSTANTINE: -- enjoy hunting --

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's all right,

22 Mr. Constantine. Please continue.

23 We'll hear the rest of what you've got

1 to say. Go ahead.

2 MR. CONSTANTINE: Okay. In closing, let me
3 say that I understand that these
4 resources belong to everyone in the
5 state. It belongs to all of us. For
6 myself and people that I hunt with, we
7 would prefer to have as many days as
8 late in the season as possible. And if
9 the board sees fit to give these hunters
10 some days in October and September -- in
11 September and October, then I think nine
12 days in those two months is adequate.
13 But please just give us the majority of
14 the days of the season as late as
15 possible.

16 The federal guidelines this year
17 were, I think, January the 15th. If you
18 would let us have those two weeks in
19 January and all of December at least,
20 that would be all that we would be
21 asking for.

22 I'd also like to say that it's
23 impossible for this board to please all

1 the people all the time, but you guys do
2 a wonderful job of satisfying most of
3 these interest groups that come before
4 you, and I thank you for that.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any questions from the
6 board for Mr. Constantine?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

9 MR. CONSTANTINE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
11 Lewie Helms.

12 MR. HELMS: I think I can just say I agree
13 with everything that gentleman said and
14 sit down, because I'm with him. We got
15 a problem with dove hunting.
16 I'm from Headland, Alabama. I'm going
17 to read this where I won't miss
18 anything.

19 I'm Lewie Helms from Headland,
20 Alabama. I would like to thank Grady
21 Hartzog and the Game and Fish for the
22 opportunity to speak here today. I am
23 72 years old, born in Barbour County on

1 a 40-acre peanut and cotton field. I've
2 lived in Dothan for the last 48 years.
3 To me dove hunting is a passion. I love
4 it.

5 I've hunted dove for 50 years and
6 it's still exciting. Been in the ag
7 business all my business life. I have
8 had -- I have been blessed with the
9 opportunities to hunt doves all over,
10 about everywhere they go, Mexico,
11 Columbia, Argentina, as well as all the
12 southern states in the U.S., but a good
13 dove shoot in south Alabama is the
14 best. I'm also a member of a hunting
15 club in Dothan/Headland and -- for over
16 40 years, and I still hunt with them on
17 occasion.

18 Seven years ago I retired and
19 decided it was time for me to give
20 something back. I have committed all my
21 land, leased -- all my land, leased land
22 and free hunting rights land and the
23 needed resources to give boys and girls

1 a good hunting experience. It is very
2 rewarding to me, especially when at
3 church on Sunday I feel a tug on my
4 sleeve and a young 12-year-old says, are
5 we going to shoot doves this afternoon?
6 Now, that's what dove hunting is all
7 about. But to have a good dove shoot,
8 certain things have got to be done.

9 Now, I met with y'all 17 years ago,
10 a group from Dothan. We met with y'all
11 17 years ago. Exactly what that fellow
12 was talking about, the September
13 season. And y'all did away with
14 September. There's no reason to hunt
15 birds in September. It's too hot. I
16 like children -- 14-year-old boys and
17 70-year-old men can't hardly handle
18 September heat, especially when there's
19 no birds. We didn't have a shoot the
20 first season in Headland, Alabama.

21 But, anyway, I'm going to leave it
22 at that. But I'm going to -- that list
23 that I gave y'all last season and a

1 proposal for this season -- and I'm
2 going to give you what I think is best
3 for southeast Alabama. Now, when I'm
4 talking, I'm not talking Mobile County.
5 I don't know. But Mobile and Baldwin
6 County has basically got the same crops
7 that Henry and Houston has, peanuts,
8 corn, whatnot.

9 But the department has proposed this
10 year September 21 to September 29,
11 October 12th to October 27th, November
12 30th to January the 15th. I would like
13 to propose -- now, at 72 years old I'm
14 not near as confrontational as I used to
15 be, but -- so if I can't get what I
16 want, I'll compromise. It took me a
17 long time to learn that, but I finally
18 did

19 All right. What we think -- and
20 this is my group. And I've talked to
21 landowners in Houston, Henry, Dale, and
22 Geneva Counties. I haven't talked to
23 many in Mobile, but it sounds like the

1 same thing down there.

2 We want -- like y'all did 17 years
3 ago when we came up here and talked to
4 you -- a group of us did -- we want you
5 to open the dove season about the 12th
6 of October, space it in and out, and
7 always let it go out the 15th of
8 January. Now, I could not agree with
9 that gentleman more.

10 Now, but if y'all got any questions
11 about it -- to have a good -- today I
12 want to have a good experience for boys
13 and girls.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Helms, I believe the
15 Commissioner may have a comment.
16 Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. Let me just say that
18 I think we've been listening to you
19 because we have moved it as much as we
20 can. One of the real problems is
21 that -- because, as you well know, doves
22 are migratory birds -- the federal
23 government only gives us the ability to

1 have two zones. That's it.

2 MR. HELMS: Right.

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: And so we're having to work
4 within that constraint, number one.

5 And, then, like the other gentleman
6 mentioned, there are others that do want
7 an earlier part. So what we're trying
8 to do is balance everything out.

9 Now, I want to applaud you and thank
10 you for what you do for hunting and
11 youth and all that. As I told you when
12 I was standing up, that's a priority of
13 mine.

14 MR. HELMS: Right.

15 COMMISSIONER GUY: So I'm trying to do -- the
16 department is trying to do -- not just
17 me. The department is trying to do
18 everything we can to make that
19 experience better. And I promise you,
20 we'll take all those comments into
21 consideration. And I think we -- that's
22 what we did this year. We moved a lot
23 more of the season into -- into the

1 latter part of -- I know Fred is shaking
2 his head. Because we heard y'all's
3 comments. So we are trying to get it,
4 you know, as much as we can and get that
5 later part of the hunt while at the same
6 time for those that want to hunt early,
7 too, try to balance that out as well.

8 MR. HELMS: Well, you got -- I was in the
9 peanut business all my life. Mobile and
10 Baldwin County and the four counties I
11 named in southeast Alabama grow 90
12 percent of the peanuts in Alabama.
13 That's the finest crop to shoot birds,
14 but you cannot shoot them early because
15 our harvest is later now. And these
16 farmers can tell you. We used to
17 harvest -- 17 years ago we changed
18 varieties. That's when we come and talk
19 to you. We got varieties that are
20 harvested in October and November.

21 But, anyway, in closing -- and I'll
22 be here to answer any questions. But I
23 am a dyed-in-the-wool dove hunter. And

1 I'm just like that gentleman. I know a
2 little bit about it because I've been
3 doing it all my life.

4 All right. I'm going to close.
5 South Alabama dove season should always,
6 always close as near January 15th as
7 possible. Dove shoot season should have
8 as many Saturdays and Sundays as
9 possible and always open Thanksgiving
10 weekend, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and
11 Sunday. This gives students and youth
12 more shooting opportunities. We should
13 always have our seasons -- maximize the
14 weekends, maximize the holidays.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Helms.

16 MR. HELMS: I thank y'all. If anybody's got
17 any questions, I'll be glad to answer
18 them.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker on
20 the topic -- and I never thought this
21 would be a popular topic at the Advisory
22 Board, and it has taken front stage --
23 on turtle harvest, Mr. John Harbin.

1 MR. HARBIN: How's everybody doing today?

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Speak into the microphone,
3 please, Mr. Harbin.

4 MR. HARBIN: How's everybody doing today?

5 My name is John Harbin. I'm a
6 red-eared turtle farmer in Jackson
7 County, Alabama, located in Scottsboro,
8 the city. But I come before y'all today
9 to ask you for your help to receive
10 permitting from Mark Sasser of the
11 Alabama Game and Fish Commission.

12 And I'm a licensed turtle farmer in
13 Alabama for the last six years. The
14 shutdown in collection has caused me a
15 setback. We weren't notified of this
16 shutdown till seven days after it was
17 already -- well, before it closed.
18 That's not time to adjust any business
19 operation.

20 And we have been in contact with
21 Mark Sasser. He seems to be willing to
22 work with us. My discussion with Mark
23 Sasser and Mark Rouleau on the time of

1 their visit to my farm was letting the
2 farmers who have been legitimate in
3 their paperwork and legally acquiring
4 turtles shouldn't be penalized for all
5 the bad people trying to rape our
6 natural resources.

7 My proposal to both Sasser and
8 Rouleau was to let the farmers that have
9 proper paperwork be allowed to harvest
10 300 turtles a year for a replacement
11 breeding program. And the reason on
12 that right there is because we got -- we
13 have a die-off. And I'm getting down to
14 the other part. I'm trying to cover all
15 my bases in three minutes.

16 And basically the problem with what
17 y'all wrote down in this regulation, you
18 know, any resources out of state you can
19 get -- it says -- but, you know, the
20 problem with, you know, catching turtles
21 in other states is none of these other
22 states want us to come in these states
23 because Alabama's shut down. So,

1 therefore, they don't want us there
2 because they can't come here to collect
3 either. And if we buy turtles from
4 other states, we don't even know if
5 they're legally acquired; therefore, we
6 violate the Lacey Act. Not to mention
7 that everyone knows Alabama's shut down
8 and they want triple the price of these
9 turtles we're trying to buy to make
10 replacements in our farms.

11 In my research, every state that is
12 shut down has allowed ample time to
13 acquire breeding stock, and I ask you
14 today to allow us the same courtesy.
15 The only reason I'm asking you this is
16 it takes us five years from the time a
17 baby turtle is hatched off to raise it
18 to a breeding age. And, you know, your
19 turtles are going to die off, I mean,
20 just natural causes of anything.

21 But, like I said, I'm a small
22 business. And, like I said, I'm just
23 trying to keep afloat. You know, the

1 way this is, you know, I -- I've got
2 everything I own sank into this
3 business. And, like I said, you know,
4 I'm going to represent most of the
5 turtle farmers here that, you know, this
6 is a thing that's going to be here.

7 You know, and I also had to quit
8 doing nuisance trapping, which we -- we
9 get quite a few calls for nuisance
10 trapping and -- may I finish?

11 But we also get nuisance calls
12 for -- I had to quit trapping because
13 the way the laws are written up on
14 this -- we can't use these turtles for
15 propagation the way y'all wrote this up.

16 MS. JONES: Time.

17 MR. HARBIN: I'm almost done.

18 And, you know, all these people are
19 killing these turtles off that are --
20 because we won't go get them, because
21 I'm not going to break a law with the
22 state to have this done. And, you know,
23 these people are killing these turtles,

1 and that's a waste of our natural
2 resources. And, you know, I just --

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you could finish it up,
4 Mr. Harbin, please, sir.

5 MR. HARBIN: I just want to thank you for your
6 time and consideration, and I hope we
7 can work this out.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

9 The next speaker is Tammi Hudson.

10 MS. HUDSON: Good morning. My name is Tammi
11 Hudson, and I live in Clarke County,
12 Alabama.

13 I came to, first of all, thank you
14 very much for the wonderful disabled
15 hunting facilities that you have in this
16 state. I have the opportunity to
17 participate in them. I have multiple
18 sclerosis and some days, you know, are
19 better than others. Some days I can't
20 walk very much.

21 But, anyway, this season I have
22 hunted at Prairie Creek, Dozier, Little
23 River, Fayette, and Marengo. At every

1 one of these hunting areas I have seen,
2 this year alone, a huge amount of
3 turkeys. And the first year I
4 participated in this program in 2010 I
5 saw some huge gobblers at Little River,
6 and I called and said, you know, there's
7 these big gobblers here, can we spring
8 turkey hunt here? And I was told, no,
9 that only -- the only thing you can do
10 at these disabled areas is harvest
11 deer. That's it.

12 To me that is a waste of resources
13 that we have. Normal turkey hunting, I
14 know you try to call up the gobbler and
15 then you go to where -- closer to where
16 he is and all that. I can't hunt like
17 that. These turkeys are coming right in
18 front of the shooting house. You know,
19 if I could just go sit in a shooting
20 house with my shotgun and turkey shot, I
21 could kill some turkeys.

22 And I just would appreciate that,
23 and I would appreciate if y'all would

1 just consider that. Because the
2 resource is already there. You've
3 already established who was able to
4 participate in a disabled thing. I just
5 don't see where it would be that much
6 more to allow it to do that.

7 Also, I've seen other kinds of
8 animals when I've been hunting. I've
9 seen hogs. I've seen bobcats. I've
10 seen stuff like that. This year I saw a
11 huge bobcat at Marengo. And I called
12 and talked to the people there, and they
13 said, no, you can't kill the bobcat.
14 But the gentleman that I talked to said
15 that was a valid point and if somebody
16 would bring it up perhaps the rules
17 could be changed. You know, so I'm just
18 asking if while we're there -- when
19 we're at management areas, they tell us
20 to shoot every hog we see; right? So if
21 we're at a disabled area and we see a
22 hog, to me we ought to be able to shoot
23 it. That's just my thing.

1 Also, in a few of these areas
2 there's room for some more shooting
3 houses. I mean, they're pretty large,
4 some of them are. Some of them are
5 small. Like Prairie Creek, it's
6 probably not any more room than the
7 three that they have there. But some of
8 us go in pairs. Because if I harvest a
9 deer, I can't load it up myself. And
10 so, you know, I travel with somebody
11 else that also hunts. So we're not
12 sharing the same shooting house. We're
13 using two shooting houses. And
14 sometimes that limits, you know,
15 availability.

16 I also just wanted to mention that I
17 appreciate the wonderful other
18 management areas that we have. I've
19 hunted at Scotch, the Upper Delta,
20 Lowndes, some other areas. I -- as you
21 can see, I dog hunt.

22 MS. JONES: Time.

23 MS. HUDSON: And I appreciate the fact that we

1 do that.

2 And one thing I wanted to say before
3 I finish is that I believe that there
4 should be -- just like you have dog
5 hunting for deer in these areas that
6 have a huge hog population, that you
7 should consider having a limited time --
8 have some dog hunts for hogs on some of
9 these management areas the first part of
10 March, because you wouldn't be hunting
11 the rabbit -- hurting the rabbit
12 hunters, the squirrel hunters, or the
13 turkey hunters. And that's just my
14 idea. Thank you very much for your
15 time.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

17 Mr. Sykes, do you mind if I call on
18 Mr. Moody real quick just for a
19 question?

20 MR. SYKES: Sure.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, is there any --
22 in Clarke County -- Ms. Hudson, that's
23 where you're talking about?

1 Is there any plans for opening
2 turkey season in that county, or have
3 y'all looked at that? Isn't that what
4 she was talking about?

5 MS. HUDSON: No.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: For disabled.

7 MR. MOODY: She's talking about just on the
8 disabled areas.

9 MS. HUDSON: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

11 MR. MOODY: And we have not considered that
12 mostly -- for two reasons. One, we
13 don't have the turkey hunting rights on
14 all the disabled areas. And, two, we
15 have never had anybody express a desire
16 to sit in a shooting house and shoot at
17 a turkey. But on those areas where we
18 could do that, if there was demand, we
19 could consider that, sure.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That would be great. Very
21 good. Thank you.

22 Okay. The next speaker will be Ted
23 Johnson.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, she's already
2 addressed what I wanted to ask.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Mike
6 Everett.

7 MR. MIKE EVERETT: I'll be very quick. I'm
8 born and raised in Dothan, Alabama, but
9 I have 500 acres in the very boot-heel
10 corner of Barbour County near -- I
11 could -- well, 20 years ago I could
12 probably take a softball and throw it to
13 Dale or Henry County, but can't do that
14 no more.

15 But I want to first say how much I
16 appreciate -- as much as I care deeply
17 about wildlife in the state of Alabama,
18 I'm ashamed to say this is the first
19 time I've ever bothered to make a trip
20 up here to attend this meeting. And I
21 appreciate the sacrifice of time and the
22 energy and everything involved in what
23 you guys do year in and year out. And I

1 want to say I also appreciate the other
2 people in the room that have done like I
3 did today and came up here. It's -- it
4 wasn't easy. There's always things you
5 need to be doing. And I feel like --
6 just listening to the comments and
7 watching this thing progress, I feel
8 like that there's probably as many
9 different perspectives on what we should
10 and should not be doing with our
11 wildlife as there are people in this
12 room. And I guess that's what makes us
13 all human individuals.

14 But I think the one thing that we
15 ought to consider in spite of our
16 different viewpoints and the things that
17 we may even bump heads on is that -- the
18 thing that we all have in common --
19 because I think everybody would agree,
20 if there was some way for everybody to
21 agree that this one way to do everything
22 is the best way to do it, everybody
23 would be on board and support it.

1 Because we're all here because we care
2 deeply about Alabama's wildlife. And I
3 just want to acknowledge that with
4 anybody who may differ with my
5 viewpoint.

6 But I've just noticed a couple of
7 things the last few years. A fellow
8 that I know who is the wildlife
9 biologist at Fort Rucker -- probably
10 most everybody read the extensive study
11 they did at Fort Rucker a few years ago
12 on coyote predation. And I bumped into
13 him the other day, and he gave me some
14 details and things that I had not even
15 read.

16 If there's anybody here that's not
17 aware of that study, they radio-collared
18 a number of newborn fawns and tracked
19 them for several months or until they
20 determined the fawn had been killed by a
21 coyote. And they had -- they had
22 registered the DNA of the coyotes in the
23 area by the scat they were leaving

1 behind. So they had a very good idea of
2 how many coyotes and the individual
3 coyotes they were dealing with. And
4 they tracked the lives of the collared
5 fawns.

6 Anyway, the result of the study
7 determined that coyotes had killed -- if
8 I -- I don't have the study with me. If
9 my memory is correct, I think their
10 conclusion was the coyotes had killed 65
11 percent of the fawns that were born that
12 year if their observations of the
13 radio-collared fawns represented what
14 was happening system-wide.

15 MS. JONES: Time.

16 MR. MIKE EVERETT: And if I could wrap up in
17 just a second.

18 The other thing --

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on just a minute.

20 Mr. Hartzog.

21 MR. HARTZOG: I was asking if he could
22 continue.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Can you repeat that one

1 more time for Mr. Hartzog?

2 MR. HARTZOG: Well, no. Continue on with
3 his --

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, okay. That would be
5 fine. Continue on.

6 MR. MIKE EVERETT: Well, he mentioned that the
7 coyotes had taken 65 percent of those
8 fawns, or maybe that was the estimate
9 projected by the study they did. I'm
10 not sure. There may be some scientific
11 difference with that.

12 But he also mentioned that, I think,
13 in conjunction with Auburn or somebody
14 that they had run some models,
15 computerizations and things that those
16 people have learned to do, and in
17 regards to the wild hogs had determined
18 that a 70-percent harvest of the wild
19 hogs that we all struggle with would
20 result in keeping the population year to
21 year level. And that struck me thinking
22 about it. I know this is not exactly
23 apples and apples. It's certainly

1 apples and oranges to some degree.

2 But if harvesting 70 percent of the
3 hog population on your property will
4 just keep that population even, when you
5 consider that one sow from the time
6 she's six months old may have as many as
7 36 pigs a year -- if a 70-percent
8 harvest on the hogs will keep that kind
9 of production level, what damage does
10 65-percent harvest do on deer that have
11 maybe a couple of fawns a year.

12 So I guess the most important thing
13 I wanted to say today was we might ought
14 to consider taking a little bit more
15 gentle footprint on our doe harvest.
16 Because, you know, if we get down the
17 road where there's nothing else that we
18 can do, it may take a generation to turn
19 it around. Because back when deer were
20 being propagated and put in places where
21 they were not commonly found in Alabama,
22 we weren't competing with coyotes back
23 then. And I thank you all for your

1 time.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

3 I had these notes from Dr. Ditchkoff at
4 one time on Fort Rucker, and he had told
5 me that the fawn recruitment -- or
6 survival rate was 20 percent and good is
7 viewed at 70 percent for the board's
8 information.

9 Okay. The next speaker will be
10 James Everett.

11 MR. JAMES EVERETT: Good morning, gentlemen.

12 I, too, am from Dothan, Alabama, and
13 want to kind of continue with what Mike
14 was saying, that I would like for the
15 board to consider us looking -- we've
16 limited the buck harvest, but as it is
17 now, we've basically got an open-ended
18 doe harvest in most of the state.

19 And I have grown up my whole life
20 hunting and fishing, grew up out in the
21 country. And I remember hearing the
22 first coyote I ever heard and thought it
23 was really cool. And that was in the

1 late '70s. And now it sounds like a
2 horror flick when the sun is going down
3 every afternoon. And I've seen the
4 impact that it's made on the deer herd.
5 And we've taken the lid off of the doe
6 harvest completely with allowing, you
7 know, two a day all season long. You
8 know, that's -- that was well and good
9 back in the, you know, '80s before the
10 doe -- the coyote population got to
11 where it's at now, but it's a
12 different -- our deer are dealing with a
13 different landscape now.

14 So I would like for you guys to keep
15 that in mind as we're making laws going
16 forward. And I've kind of heard some
17 mention of that already, so -- and
18 especially with the northern states with
19 the EHD. You guys are looking at that.
20 And I appreciate that and I want to
21 applaud that and ask that you continue
22 considering maybe taking a look at us
23 backing off of the does just a little

1 bit. Because if you get the -- get our
2 deer population down too far in certain
3 areas of the state, it could be hard for
4 it to recover with the hogs and the
5 coyotes coming on like they are.

6 Also, with the season extension that
7 we're looking at in southwest Alabama, I
8 really appreciate you guys listening and
9 acting on that. As you consider doing
10 that in other counties, I hunt in Henry
11 County not far from where Mike's
12 property is, and I heard a study --
13 don't know if this is true -- that our
14 mean conception date in Henry County is
15 January the 26th with the bell curve
16 going from about January 12th to
17 somewhere around February the 9th,
18 February the 10th.

19 I would like to see the season go
20 into February a little bit in our county
21 for a couple of reasons -- in several
22 counties in southeast Alabama for a
23 couple of reasons. One is -- and I

1 heard the dove hunters mention this --
2 the temperatures. October 15th to
3 November is just -- it's hot. And so it
4 doesn't make for the greatest experience
5 in the world when you're -- when it's
6 that hot. And a lot of people just
7 don't bow hunt because of it being so
8 hot. In February we typically have some
9 cooler temperatures.

10 But other considerations that I had
11 made note of is with the mean conception
12 date being so late when you are bow
13 hunting -- when you are -- which we
14 don't see a lot of spotted fawns -- we
15 don't see a lot of fawns anymore on our
16 place, but when you do see a fawn, she's
17 almost always still nursing.

18 MS. JONES: Time.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

20 Okay. The next speaker will be

21 Bobby Brooks.

22 MR. DOBBS: Mr. Chairman, I have --

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

1 MR. DOBBS: -- one question of Dr. Moody.

2 Just because I don't know, what do
3 we assume that the department -- the
4 predators' impact -- or predation's
5 impact is on the fawn recruitment
6 statewide? Do we have any idea?

7 MR. MOODY: We do not know, but we do have a
8 very extensive study -- statewide study
9 that was implemented last fall that will
10 take three to four years to get any
11 reasonable answer for you. But we're
12 working with our staff and Auburn
13 University, and hopefully we will have
14 some answers for you regarding that
15 issue.

16 MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Bobby Brooks.

19 Okay. The next speaker is Nicki
20 Burt.

21 MR. BURT: Good morning, Board. I'm Nicki
22 Burt. I belong to Two Rivers Hunting
23 Club, which is in southwest Alabama.

1 We appreciate the extension of the
2 season -- or proposal. We live -- our
3 hunting club is right on the state
4 line. We have approximately ten miles
5 of river, Perdido River, which is right
6 on the Florida line, which means we
7 compete with Florida. And their season
8 continues until the end of February.
9 And, plus, they bait, you know, and we
10 don't. Our club is not really
11 interested in that, but it kind of draws
12 some of our deer off of our lease onto
13 Florida. Perdido River is not much
14 wider at most places than this
15 auditorium. So, I mean, the deer travel
16 back and forth.

17 Glad these guys are talking about
18 the coyotes. We got a really bad
19 problem with coyotes. We personally as
20 a club not only would like to see the
21 shift, we would like to see it taken
22 away, also, in October to give our fawns
23 an extra week and a half, two weeks,

1 whatever it's going to be, to help them
2 mature so, you know, the mothers don't
3 take a chance of getting killed and then
4 the coyotes take care of the fawns.

5 But other than that, we just show
6 our support for the extension and
7 appreciate y'all's time and everything
8 you do. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
10 David Colston.

11 MS. JONES: He's the one who had to leave.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, that's who left.

13 Okay. Very good.

14 The next speaker is Jeremy Dortch.

15 MR. DORTCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
16 Commissioner. Gentlemen, my name is
17 Jeremy Dortch. I'm from Escambia
18 County, Alabama. And like this
19 gentleman that just spoke, our county
20 borders Florida, and we also compete
21 with the Florida hunters, their ability
22 to bait.

23 And I think one of the issues -- I

1 applaud y'all for finally looking at
2 extending the season. However, I think
3 a ten-day moratorium in December is not
4 correct and the way to go, especially
5 for us in the border states, our
6 counties. A shift, as these gentlemen
7 both spoke about and moving the entire
8 season, moving to October and the heat,
9 we enter the same things. I have
10 picture upon picture from my cameras on
11 my private land of does carrying fawns,
12 twins, triplets, still spotted, in
13 October and into the first part of
14 November. You can't hunt them. The
15 bucks aren't going to even chase them
16 because they're still -- got those fawns
17 with them that's losing their spots when
18 the rut begins to start. If they're not
19 rutting until February, then obviously
20 they're not dropping these fawns and
21 they're still weaning them off when
22 hunting season starts.

23 A ten-day moratorium in the middle

1 of December I disagree with a hundred
2 percent, and I would ask y'all to really
3 consider that before you vote on it.
4 Look at a full shift, get some more
5 public input. This is the first in the
6 last couple of weeks we've been allowed
7 to hear about this. We didn't know what
8 counties were going to be involved in it
9 and ask you to please look for more
10 public support before you vote on it.
11 And let's make sure we do the right
12 thing for the resources in this state.

13 And, lastly, before I move on,
14 unless I've went over time, I know we
15 have a large coyote and feral hog
16 problem, and I think the challenge for
17 this board is to push the private
18 landowners to allow more hunters in
19 there to hunt them. There's a lot of
20 hunting clubs on private land that hunt
21 deer that won't hunt coyotes and won't
22 hunt feral hogs, but they won't allow
23 other hunters that do to get on those

1 lands to hunt them. And I think that
2 will help bring down this population.

3 I have gentlemen ask me all the time
4 where can I hunt hogs, where can I hunt
5 coyotes because no one will allow me on
6 their private lands to do that. So I
7 think that's the challenge for this
8 board is to push the private landowners
9 to open those up to not only just people
10 that lease hunting rights for deer, to
11 look at other groups to hunt during the
12 summer months for hogs and coyotes.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
15 Peyton Langford.

16 MR. LANGFORD: Good morning. I appreciate the
17 opportunity to come here. My name is
18 Peyton Langford. I'm from Autaugaville,
19 Alabama, in Autauga County. I farm for
20 a living, and we run an outfitter guide
21 service out there.

22 And I'm probably the only guy here
23 this morning that's going to talk

1 against extending the season, because I
2 think if you extend the season you're
3 going to be missing a great
4 opportunity. I think that opportunity
5 may be instead of extending the season,
6 leave it just like it is, but give us an
7 additional season. Give us an
8 additional couple of weeks maybe in
9 February. Make it a buck-only season,
10 four on one side or better. That means
11 it's completely enforceable because
12 nobody can kill a deer if it doesn't
13 have four on one side. They can't take
14 it to the processor without four on one
15 side. And they can't ride it in the
16 back of their truck without the four on
17 one side. So it's completely
18 enforceable. Kind of enforces itself.

19 Also, the main deal about this, make
20 us buy an additional license or special
21 permit for that particular season. That
22 opens it up to a lot larger area in the
23 state. And what you can do is earmark

1 portions of those proceeds -- you've got
2 an opportunity to maybe double your
3 revenue in one year. Earmark a portion
4 of those proceeds for like some of this
5 coyote stuff. Find out if coyotes are
6 hunting. Take those special revenues,
7 use them to forward some of the special
8 projects in the state, and folks will be
9 more apt to participate in it.

10 You know, I can't speak for
11 everybody in Alabama, but I can speak
12 for a lot of people in Autauga County.
13 We would support something like that.
14 Most everybody that I've talked to would
15 be willing to pay the additional money
16 to get to hunt in February like we've
17 been wanting to do for a long time.

18 I've talked to a lot of out-of-state
19 hunters. The out-of-state hunters have
20 no problem whatsoever with coming to
21 Alabama. They'd much rather come to
22 Alabama than Florida or Mississippi in
23 February to get to deer hunt. That

1 gives a big economic boom for Alabama.
2 It gives hunters an opportunity.
3 Everybody would be happy with it, I
4 think, across the board. I know the
5 people that I've talked to in Autauga
6 County would be willing to support it a
7 hundred percent, and we appreciate the
8 opportunity to be a part of it.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
10 Hooper Matthews.

11 MR. MATTHEWS: I'm Hooper Matthews from
12 Atmore, Alabama. I'm a landowner and
13 forester. I just got some comments and
14 questions about extending the deer
15 season.

16 Originally I was kind of like --
17 well, I felt like -- I thought it was
18 going to be added to. And so I guess my
19 concern is I'm a -- like the dove
20 hunter, I'm an avid dog hunter, which we
21 use collars. And I know every time
22 y'all see dog hunters y'all don't want
23 to hear anything.

1 But, anyway, I guess a big concern
2 if you're going to just shift ten days
3 is what's going to happen to the dog
4 season. Just like the fellow said about
5 the dove hunting and boys coming up to
6 you and telling you how much fun it was
7 and all that. We have 75-year-old men
8 that hadn't done it in years, and
9 they'll come back and say, hey, I hadn't
10 done that in years, it's a lot of fun.

11 But I guess the concern I have
12 there, if we're -- if the proposal is
13 just to shift the days is what happens
14 and take into consideration that we
15 don't lose any dog-hunting days.
16 Because that stops the 15th and I'm fine
17 with that. However, when you're -- and
18 you're feeding dogs all year and all
19 that. And we don't want to be punitive
20 by doing this.

21 I was like him. I was thinking when
22 Harry brought up the extension --
23 because our property -- we've been on

1 the deer management program since its
2 inception. The state could come out and
3 tell us how many deer to kill, and I
4 guess my -- if the landowner and land
5 manager -- is if -- as a club or a
6 landowner -- like they always told us to
7 kill a hundred bucks and 150 does, which
8 we never did kill our quota in bucks.
9 And our harvest is way down. But as
10 long as we're not exceeding what your
11 specialists/wildlife biologists are
12 telling us, advising us to kill, an
13 extra ten days shouldn't hurt as long as
14 we're staying within the harvest
15 guidelines that have been set by y'all's
16 trained personnel/biologists.

17 So I guess my biggest concern is not
18 losing ten days or two weeks of dog
19 season, but also I'm more along the line
20 as long as landowners or clubs are
21 abiding by y'all's recommendations and
22 not overharvesting their deer in the
23 first place, you know, consider just

1 extending it or -- we try to shoot only
2 eight-points or larger and all that. So
3 a big shift I've seen over my lifetime
4 is people hunt deer now, a deer instead
5 of shooting a buck. So with all these
6 game cameras, where 20 years ago me and
7 my buddies and all that, we would have
8 just shot a six-point or eight-point,
9 well, people nowadays are saying, well,
10 I saw this eight-point, but it's not the
11 one I've been watching.

12 So, you know, there's a lot more
13 voluntary discretion on the hunters'
14 part now that I've seen to where they
15 don't kill the deer like we used to.
16 I mean, it's just people have -- like I
17 tell folks -- I took a wildlife course
18 at Auburn and other seminars in my
19 continuing education, but --

20 MS. JONES: Time.

21 MR. MATTHEWS: Sometimes I think I'm trying to
22 kill a Canada deer in south Alabama, and
23 you're just not going to do that. But,

1 anyway, we just don't want to lose our
2 ten days of dog season.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Matthews.

4 The next speaker is Eric Terrell.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's out.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is
7 Jack Williamson.

8 MR. WILLIAMSON: Jack Williamson, Conecuh
9 County, Alabama. Gentlemen, I've been
10 before y'all six out of the past seven
11 years asking for this extension, and I
12 am so happy today I don't know what to
13 do.

14 Mr. Guy, I appreciate all of your
15 work. And I listened to you carefully,
16 and you said that you were going to try
17 to get this implemented and then studied
18 and make any adjustments that need to be
19 done. So we're making a great step
20 forward today, and I am tickled to death
21 with it. I've spent 12 minutes in six
22 years asking for it, I think. So I want
23 to thank you for that.

1 And I am hearing today a lot of
2 questions being asked that y'all need to
3 turn to some climatologists to talk
4 about our climate changes. That would
5 answer about half the questions in here,
6 and it would answer the question on why
7 the rut has slowly moved back.

8 I studied climatology in college.
9 And, gentlemen, our climates are
10 changing. I plant corn now the third
11 week in July and made 180 bushels to the
12 acre. My daddy would have shot me if I
13 would have done that as a child.

14 Our climate is changing. That's
15 what's affecting this dove hunting.
16 That's what's affecting the deer
17 hunting. And it is soon going to affect
18 the turkey hunting. So we might need to
19 start looking at some climatologists for
20 some of the answers to some of the
21 things going on.

22 But I certainly appreciate it, and I
23 encourage all the board members, please

1 pass this recommendation of Mr. Guy's.
2 It is very important to us. Thank you
3 for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,
5 Mr. Williamson.

6 The next speaker is Philip Hester.

7 MR. HESTER: Good morning. Thanks to you
8 all. I'm Phil Hester. I am affiliated
9 with ODMA. I've spoken to you before on
10 certain issues.

11 I want to thank you very much for
12 the progress you've made listening to a
13 lot of the grassroots advisory group
14 meetings. I see so many of the
15 recommendations that were made. I was
16 fortunate enough to be invited to that.
17 So thank you very much. I see a lot of
18 improvement, a lot of progress going
19 forward. Looking forward to seeing the
20 final document whenever that comes
21 together. Really excited about that.
22 So thank you very much for that.

23 I am here today to ask you to

1 consider to expand our primitive weapon
2 season for deer harvest. When I look at
3 the counties around -- the states around
4 Alabama, Mississippi has 11 days,
5 Tennessee has 13 days, I think Florida
6 has 14 days of primitive
7 weapon/muzzleloader season, and we only
8 have five.

9 And in our situation -- I hunt in
10 Pickens County, west Central Alabama on
11 the Mississippi state line. It would be
12 a great help to us to manage our doe
13 herd, our deer population for -- to take
14 out those deer -- those does early
15 before rutting season comes in, more
16 food left in the woods for the remaining
17 deer, less stress on the bucks during
18 the rutting season, all those scientific
19 reasons. And I would be tickled to
20 death for -- to, you know, limit it to
21 does only. And I would ask you to
22 consider opening muzzleloader season
23 November 1st and run it to the beginning

1 of gun season. This was one of the
2 advisory group meeting recommendations
3 that we put together.

4 I would also encourage you to
5 consider increasing our license fees.
6 We have one of the very lowest license
7 fees for in-state residents, and the
8 department needs some revenue. And I
9 would also encourage you to consider
10 passing a big game license. You know,
11 another 15, 20 bucks is not going -- I
12 mean, we pay a hundred dollars for a
13 pair of boots. So I think that's
14 something that should be considered.

15 Questions?

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

17 The next speaker is Ken Attaway.

18 We'll take a break right after the
19 public portion of the meeting if
20 everybody can just hold on.

21 Okay. Mr. Attaway is not here. The
22 next speaker will be Rick Baxter.

23 MR. BAXTER: Good morning. Rick Baxter from

1 Vinegar Bend, Alabama, Washington
2 County.

3 A couple of things that most people
4 have already covered. But one thing is
5 the doe season coming in in October I
6 agree a hundred percent. We're
7 overloaded with coyotes, and our does --
8 I hunt in Illinois also. When we go to
9 Illinois in the second week of November,
10 their fawns are big enough they can
11 survive. And at our -- at my house in
12 Vinegar Bend, Alabama, I'm seeing
13 spotted fawns into December. So I do
14 agree the rut is coming in later. So
15 our fawns are not having a chance to
16 live when their mothers get killed off.
17 Not only is it hurting our herd, it's
18 inhumane that they're starving to
19 death. And we see that every year. We
20 own about 800 acres together, my family
21 does, and we see that. We find them
22 there. And the coyotes too.

23 So the other thing is the dog

1 season. I am an avid dog hunter. I'm
2 going to get both of both worlds. I
3 hunt in Washington County and Choctaw
4 County north of 84. So I'm a little
5 lucky.

6 But with that said, I do -- would
7 like to ask what -- has there been any
8 consideration in the southern part of
9 the state for the dog hunters. If we're
10 going to cut out the ten days in
11 December, are we going to extend it in
12 January to get it back like it was?

13 When I was a 12, 14-year-old child,
14 we had the whole month of January to
15 hunt with dogs. Has there been any
16 consideration for that?

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The board will respond.
18 Just go ahead and state your comments
19 though.

20 MR. BAXTER: Okay. Well, that was my
21 comments, and thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you so
23 much.

1 The next speaker is Jim Dye.

2 MR. DYE: Good morning. I'm Jim Dye, and I
3 hunt in northern Greene County with
4 C & W Dog Hunting Club. We appreciate
5 the board's consideration in giving us
6 the season to hunt like we did. I think
7 we had a pretty quiet season, no
8 complaints or anything that I'm aware
9 of. Would just like to see us to
10 continue to be able to responsibly dog
11 hunt there.

12 I'd also like to kind of address a
13 couple of concerns about extending the
14 season. Not that it affects where I'm
15 hunting, but, like I said, losing the
16 ten days for dog hunting anywhere is a
17 concern, is something to think about,
18 you know, how is that going to affect
19 the deer dog season losing those ten
20 days.

21 Also, people that rabbit hunt with
22 dogs. February is the prime time to
23 rabbit hunt. The weather is just about

1 right. It's cool enough. With
2 extending the season into February, the
3 rabbit hunters are losing some
4 opportunities to get out and rabbit hunt
5 because a lot of land that we get to
6 rabbit hunt on is deer -- you know,
7 hunted with deer and, therefore, you
8 wouldn't be able to get in there and do
9 that. So it's just a concern there as
10 far as, you know, how is that going to
11 affect that particular aspect of
12 hunting. And, like I said, just some
13 concerns we had. But we just thank the
14 board for their consideration.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Eddie
16 Holder.

17 MR. HOLDER: I'm Eddie Holder from Georgiana,
18 Alabama. I'm a dog hunter. There's no
19 stronger bond that exists than that of a
20 man and his dog. I think we'll all
21 agree with that.

22 I've been called a renegade because
23 I'm a dog hunter. And I didn't

1 understand what a renegade was, so I
2 went to the dictionary. Mr. Webster
3 said a renegade is one who abandons a
4 party or movement to join the
5 opposition, is a turncoat.

6 I got to thinking, that's not me.
7 I'm a Baptist. I'm not supposed to be a
8 turncoat. These guys that called me a
9 renegade used to -- I'm sorry -- used to
10 dog hunt with me. They called me
11 renegade. So I guess I'm not a renegade
12 after all.

13 I want to tell you a little bit
14 about how we dog hunt. We have about 12
15 to 15 people to show up at my house from
16 the age of 75 years old to my little
17 grandson who just turned five. We go
18 out there and have a ball. We eat a lot
19 of Little Debbie cakes, we drink a lot
20 of Juicy Juice, and we get briars all
21 over us.

22 My little grandson went through a
23 thicket with his dad this year and was

1 out there with my dogs. I had to take a
2 fold-up chair to sit in because I'm too
3 old to stand up anymore. I listened to
4 them go through the thicket, and I heard
5 my son-in-law -- y'all know what I'm
6 talking about, the dog hunters -- he's
7 hep, hoop. I hear something squealing.
8 I say, well, I don't recognize that
9 dog. That's my grandson. He's
10 hunting.

11 Y'all are -- most of you that have
12 children and grandchildren know what I'm
13 talking about. I get emotional. And I
14 did. I almost cried sitting out there
15 listening to that boy. He's loving
16 that. So when they came out, I'm
17 waiting up at my truck. A little soft
18 briar done cut him on the bridge of his
19 nose. He come walking up there. He
20 said, Pawpaw, I'm give out. I said,
21 well, what about one of them Little
22 Debbie cakes? Reckon that'll pep you
23 up? And he said, yes, sir, I think so.

1 So he's sitting on my dog box
2 scarfing down that Zebra Cake. He looks
3 over there, and he says, Pawpaw, did I
4 do good?

5 Folks, that's why I hunt. It's not
6 killing animals. I could kill you a
7 deer every day, and we need to take them
8 out. Because if you don't believe it,
9 get on the interstate at Fort Deposit on
10 I-65, ride down to about Evergreen at
11 nine o'clock at night, and tell me how
12 many deer you had to dodge or how many
13 you ran over. My granddaughter's hit
14 one, my great-niece has hit one, my
15 70-year-old neighbor has hit one in the
16 last two weeks.

17 So, I mean, we got a bunch of deer
18 in Butler County. I don't know -- the
19 survey -- I'd like to go with them to
20 run the survey because apparently
21 there's something that I --

22 MS. JONES: Time.

23 MR. HOLDER: -- that I'm not seeing.

1 I'd just like to finish by saying
2 please, please, don't stop us from dog
3 hunting.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Holder.

5 The next speaker is Dick Holley.

6 MR. HOLLEY: Mr. Chairman, I like to broke my
7 kneecap yesterday.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Take your time, sir.

9 MR. HOLLEY: Of course, I'm 71 years old, not
10 72 like this man.

11 I'm Dick Holley from Tuscaloosa,
12 Alabama, retired chief appraiser with
13 the highway department. Got cancer in
14 '95, didn't die, so I started my own
15 appraisal business. Actually specialize
16 in hunting and fishing and timberland
17 for a lot of folks from Tuscaloosa, Mr.
18 Bunn's daddy and Monroe Payne and a lot
19 of big landowners.

20 I'm here representing Fayette
21 County. Even though I'm from
22 Tuscaloosa, I hunt all over west Alabama
23 and always have since I got out of the

1 Navy after the Cuban Crisis. I grew up
2 at 23 years old dog hunting at one of, I
3 think, the greatest dog hunting clubs in
4 Alabama, which was Old West Greene
5 Hunting Club. I hunted over at
6 Dollarhide, which was actually the
7 number-one hunting -- dog hunting club
8 in west Alabama. Old Liberty Hunting
9 Club I feel is number three. It was
10 formed in 1984. It has 4,000 beautiful
11 acres that is mainly 90-percent
12 Weyerhaeuser lease. I've hunted it with
13 Mr. (inaudible), who is present, for the
14 last five or six years.

15 We had an unfortunate incident about
16 four years ago. We had three renegades
17 that were let in our club that we
18 probably didn't do diligence by checking
19 their background. They had come out of
20 Lamar County. And we find out too late
21 that they are renegades and were
22 breaking the game laws.

23 The game wardens, who I really

1 appreciate and they do a great job,
2 arrested our -- some of our members,
3 those renegades, that they were hunting
4 too close on the road and the renegades
5 on the road. And I think some of the
6 people on the board may have been here
7 at that time. We lost our dog-hunting
8 rights. That's four years ago.

9 Like I said, I grew up dog hunting.
10 And I stalk hunt and I dove hunt. And I
11 agree with all these gentlemen that the
12 dove hunt should be extended. I don't
13 know what we're going to do about duck
14 hunting. I've talked to Richard Shelby
15 till I'm blue in the face, because he
16 was our special attorney general when I
17 was appraiser for the highway
18 department.

19 But what we're asking the board here
20 is that we would like a reconsideration
21 on Old Liberty Hunting Club to give us
22 back our dog rights.

23 MS. JONES: Time.

1 MR. HOLLEY: Not for life -- may I continue,
2 Commissioner?

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. But if you would --
4 the Commissioner would probably tell you
5 yes, but -- continue, but if you could
6 try to keep it brief, please, sir.

7 MR. HOLLEY: Sir?

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If you'd keep it brief,
9 please.

10 MR. HOLLEY: Yes, I will. I will.

11 We are asking not for dog rights for
12 the remainder of the life of the club.
13 We're asking for a one-year permit to
14 see how we do, and I think we will do
15 like we've always done before that
16 unfortunate four-year incident. We have
17 lost half our membership because of dog
18 hunting -- we don't have dog hunting.
19 We got 75 and 80-year-old daddies and
20 granddaddies that can't hunt because
21 they -- like me, they can't climb a tree
22 stand. They just can't hunt.

23 We have 186 signatures. I'm going

1 to read this real quick. To whom it may
2 concern --

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Holley, we appreciate
4 that you have the signatures. If you
5 could just be brief. You're over your
6 time, and there's a lot of speakers
7 today. If you could go ahead and finish
8 up.

9 MR. HOLLEY: All right. We have 186
10 signatures from people who are not in
11 this club that live around here saying
12 that they would like to see deer
13 hunting/dog hunting continue in Fayette
14 County. And I would like to give this
15 to our regional commissioner for your
16 holding and reconsideration.

17 MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you.

18 MR. HOLLEY: Thank y'all very much.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Holley.

20 The next speaker is Jeff Jeter.

21 MR. JETER: Good morning. I'm Jeff Jeter from
22 Covington County, Alabama, and I'll be
23 brief. It's basically the same concern

1 that some of these other gentlemen had
2 mentioned about the extending of the
3 hunting season in south and west Alabama
4 and what's going to happen to our
5 dog-hunting season.

6 I understand that these gentlemen
7 had been for several years trying to get
8 that extended in that area. And I'm not
9 against them. I'm for them. I just --
10 I just don't want our season reduced
11 just to facilitate that user group at
12 the peril of our user group. We're
13 after the same resource they're after,
14 and we would like to see our ten days
15 either left alone or given to us after
16 the 15th. I know several people have
17 asked and it hasn't been mentioned yet
18 what exactly is going to happen, which I
19 think we probably know that right now
20 we're going to lose it.

21 And, you know, we -- 331, there's
22 40,000 acres of dog hunting down there
23 on both sides of that highway. And

1 because part of our club is on the -- or
2 the majority of our club is on the west
3 side, we're going to lose ten days when
4 the folks right across the road from us
5 aren't going to lose anything. And it
6 doesn't seem like a good solution for
7 the dog hunters.

8 I just wish you would all consider
9 that, and please, please, don't take any
10 of our days away when we've already got
11 fewer days than the stalk hunter does
12 and we pay the same thing for a license
13 that a stalk hunter does.

14 Again, I'm not against them having
15 their season continue into February if
16 that's what they need to do to hunt the
17 way they want to. Just please don't
18 take anything from me and the folks that
19 hunt with me.

20 We police ourselves. We take dogs
21 getting off our property very seriously,
22 and we don't -- we don't allow it. We
23 don't have any problems with our

1 conservation officers for the way we've
2 hunted in that area since we've had
3 the -- those clubs down there going.
4 And we just ask that you please look at
5 it very seriously and not take any of
6 our time. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Don
8 Knight.

9 MR. KNIGHT: Good morning, gentlemen. I am
10 Don Knight. I live in Anniston. I hunt
11 in Barbour County. And I'm the current
12 state president of the Alabama Dog
13 Hunters Association.

14 I think enough questions have been
15 asked about the ten days, but there's
16 not been a suggestion or an answer. We
17 would really like to have something on
18 that, if we could, just as to how the
19 board's looking or whatever, anything
20 like that, just some kind of answer as
21 to what we're looking at.

22 Also, I'd like to tell you -- some
23 of you will be happy, some of you won't

1 be so happy -- but this will be my last
2 meeting to speak to you as president of
3 the Alabama Dog Hunters Association. I
4 just got to give it up. We've got a lot
5 of things going for us right now. Our
6 association was way up here. We had so
7 many members. And then when we lost
8 some counties, it dropped down some and
9 leveled off, and this year we're having
10 a spike. We're getting members after
11 members after members.

12 But what impresses me with these
13 members more than anything is they're
14 18, 19, 20, up to 30-year-old people.
15 And, fellows, I don't care what side of
16 the coin you're going to flip about the
17 dog hunting or still hunting, that's
18 impressive. That means a lot to this
19 state. That means a tremendous amount.
20 Because we get these young people
21 hunting, then our hunting will last.

22 These people that want to do away
23 with the dog hunting or kill the days or

1 whatever, you're doing the animal rights
2 activists' job for them. Why shut down
3 any part of hunting. It makes no
4 sense. You've done their job for them.
5 Don't do that.

6 I left a copy of our show. I don't
7 know how many of you got to see it. It
8 was on the Outdoor Channel about four or
9 five times this year. She's got it,
10 going to make some copies of it, get you
11 copies of it, whatever we can. But when
12 you watch this movie -- and big time on
13 Eufaula, Alabama, by the way. But if
14 you watch this movie, what I want you to
15 notice in this movie is the young people
16 and us old people. Okay. We've got a
17 lot of them. But I want you to see the
18 young people having a good time and
19 enjoying themselves. That's part of
20 hunting like the people have already
21 said.

22 If we don't put our young people
23 into hunting, hunting won't exist

1 forever. In my lifetime -- I'll be 70
2 years old this year on my birthday. In
3 my lifetime I've seen it come from
4 people wanting you to come and kill the
5 deer to get them off their property to
6 big-time money. Okay. And the big-time
7 money is what's basically hurt all of
8 our hunting. But it's going to happen.
9 It's a natural evolution that when
10 something becomes popular it gets more
11 expensive. So we know we're going to
12 have that.

13 MS. JONES: Time.

14 MR. KNIGHT: But, if you would, help us on
15 this. I've got capable hands that I'm
16 going to turn this organization over
17 to. Susan Morrow. Would you stand up,
18 Susan. And Jerry Temple. They'll be
19 taking over till we have our meetings
20 and elect our new officers.

21 Before I go, I have -- well, I don't
22 want to say I have enjoyed working with
23 these boards all the time, but it has

1 been an experience. And we've got a
2 good experience with this board right
3 here and we thank you. I'd like to see
4 our ten days stay.

5 Oh, and by the way -- I'm sorry. I
6 told y'all at the last meeting that I
7 would meet with the people in Coffee
8 County. We had an excellent meeting.
9 We had great precipitation -- that's why
10 I'm getting out -- participation. And
11 we discussed the problems.

12 We also invited the people that were
13 complaining against us to send us their
14 complaints. They told me they would.
15 We never got them. But we still went
16 over the problems that night and came up
17 with solutions in situations that we
18 needed to have solutions applied to.

19 So we worked on that, and I think
20 this year it was very good to show. And
21 I want to thank y'all very much. But it
22 has been a --

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, do you have a

1 comment?

2 MR. HARTZOG: Yes. Don, I just want to thank
3 you because I only got one call from
4 Coffee County the whole year. So you
5 must have done your job and did a good
6 job. I was going to say that in my
7 district report. But thank you for the
8 work you did in Coffee County.

9 MR. KNIGHT: Appreciate it.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Don.

11 The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

12 MS. MORROW: Good morning, Chairman and
13 Members of the Board. I'm Susan
14 Morrow. I'm from Mobile County. I hunt
15 all over the state of Alabama. I've got
16 y'all a package there. I'm going to
17 touch briefly on just a couple of
18 things. Y'all can read through it. If
19 you have any questions, I'll answer
20 them.

21 I want to thank y'all first for the
22 more dog days that y'all gave us on the
23 management areas. It has been great for

1 the kids and us big kids too. We really
2 like it.

3 And I would like for y'all to look
4 at on the Upper Delta Management Area,
5 let's try to make it a little bit safer
6 for our dog hunts.

7 And I'd also like to ask the board,
8 why can't we hunt hogs with dogs on our
9 management areas? We have a lot of hog
10 hunters, and their dogs, that's all they
11 run is hogs. And we have a big hog
12 problem in our state. And if we could
13 just set a certain time aside for them
14 to go in and hog hunt, it would be
15 wonderful.

16 And, also, I want to touch on --
17 y'all have my petitions for support for
18 dog hunting, and I'd like to see maybe
19 two more management areas opened. And I
20 have them listed there, some of them.

21 And, also, I would like to touch on
22 alcohol and hunting. On a management
23 area hunt that I was on there was a guy

1 behind me. It was 5:30 in the morning.
2 And I was standing there to get my
3 permit, and he smelled like he had taken
4 a bath in alcohol. Later on that day he
5 come by and was talking with me, and he
6 smelled worse, if that was possible.

7 But my point here is that I
8 understand there's no rules on that as
9 far as on a management area that they
10 can't pull their permit if they've been
11 drinking, and I would like to see
12 something addressed about that. Because
13 it's more for families.

14 And, also, I want to talk real quick
15 on Clarke County, the dog shooting. And
16 I understand that it was a small
17 acreage. But these people have done
18 this all their lives. It's wrote in my
19 thing there. And they've never had a
20 problem. They only hunt this land like
21 once a year. And this guy has 60
22 acres. He had just a few kids and a
23 couple of older guys. And they turned

1 the three dogs loose, and the dogs got
2 off the property with GPS collars. They
3 got 395 yards coming back to the owners
4 and they were shot. The collars was cut
5 off.

6 And we are trying to start a chapter
7 of the dog hunters in Clarke County to
8 help educate all our dog hunters on what
9 it will take for us to keep our
10 dog-hunting rights. So I want you to
11 keep that in mind when you read about
12 that. Because these guys are -- they've
13 done it all their lives. They're just
14 country people. They were not members
15 of the Dog Hunters Association, but they
16 are now.

17 And real quick.

18 MS. JONES: Time.

19 MS. MORROW: Real quick.

20 And on the extending deer season,
21 the only thing I have on that is it
22 would -- I guess it will be all right,
23 but please don't take our dog days away

1 from us. And think about our rabbit
2 hunters. Thank y'all.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Ms. Morrow, the
4 Commissioner has a comment for you.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: Ms. Susan, could you -- you
6 made a comment about hunting being safer
7 on the Upper Delta.

8 MS. MORROW: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER GUY: Could you briefly just tell
10 me what you mean by that?

11 MS. MORROW: Well, in the Upper Delta, you
12 know, you got where you can drive in and
13 then you have where people are coming in
14 by boat. But you can make your own
15 rules on your management areas.

16 When you come in, we've got --
17 people just come in and they go to
18 hunting. Okay. And you don't know
19 who's down the road or anything. It
20 needs to be a little bit more
21 organized. I understand that we have a
22 problem where we don't have a big area
23 for parking, but we do have a huge

1 shooting range there. And I understand
2 that it's been done like this for so
3 long that the people that come by boat
4 would have to come around to get a
5 permit and that there's really no place
6 to issue permits.

7 But there's got to be some way to
8 make it safer. Because you can ask
9 Mr. Avery Bates. You can ask a lot of
10 the people that's been there. It's
11 not -- it's not real safe. Because when
12 you go in there, you get on a stand and
13 you look around and you might see
14 somebody else on a stand right there
15 with you or they might be up in a tree.
16 So, you know, when I'm deer hunting, I'm
17 looking down here. I'm not looking up.

18 We have a problem with duck hunters
19 coming in there and duck hunting while
20 we are in there trying to dog hunt. It
21 is a dog hunt day, and we need to make
22 it just a little bit safer so we can
23 take our families in there. Thank

1 y'all.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.

3 The next speaker is Donald Nelson.

4 MR. NELSON: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm

5 Mayor Don Nelson from Creola, Alabama.

6 And I've had the pleasure to talk to

7 y'all over the years, and I appreciate

8 that once again. I'm also -- my family

9 has over 200 acres in Butler County.

10 Last year I had the opportunity to

11 share something that I felt like were

12 some success stories we had about using

13 our GPS systems, being able to retrieve

14 our dogs, working with Lieutenant Mike

15 McNeil in that area to go down to zero

16 issues or problems. I know I may have a

17 few people who say otherwise, but we

18 continue to work on those issues there.

19 This year, to let you know, my dogs

20 were all at home at five o'clock every

21 day because of my GPS's. They work. My

22 club members are going to that because

23 they are successful in that.

1 I shared with you last year, our
2 club has pumped over a million dollars
3 into leases in Butler County. We enjoy
4 doing that. Last year we paid in excess
5 of \$30,000. That's a good thing to do.
6 We enjoy it.

7 Just let -- I echo what Mr. Knight
8 said and Susan said and Mr. Holder. I
9 reckon I'm considered an outlaw. But,
10 gentlemen, I'm a mayor entering my
11 fourth term, 16 years. I retired as a
12 colonel out of the United States Marine
13 Corps. I support and defend this
14 constitution. I don't tolerate any
15 nonsense or people violating the laws in
16 that club, and we try to do things
17 better.

18 Y'all have an opportunity this
19 morning with this proposal. I support
20 extending the season. But you also have
21 an opportunity to eliminate some
22 friction between stalk and dog hunting.
23 I do both. The opportunity to allow dog

1 hunters to continue to hunt December the
2 1st through the 10th, whatever the
3 cut-out date is, that diffuses the
4 situation somewhat to allow stalk
5 hunters an additional ten days on the
6 end. So please take that in advisement
7 and consider that. That is a golden
8 opportunity to alleviate some of the
9 problems that y'all have to hear in your
10 areas. I think it's a good opportunity
11 just like the permit system was a good
12 opportunity. So please look at that.

13 I heard people talking about the
14 coyotes. Just to let you know, I think
15 there's only three ways to get rid --
16 help regulate the coyote problem. Of
17 course, one is I-65, which we all see
18 roadkill, and other roads around here.
19 One is trapping, which I don't know if
20 that's favorable. But, also, dogs do
21 somewhat help regulate the coyote
22 problem. They will help you eliminate
23 running by hunters. Other than that, I

1 know of no other ways to eliminate the
2 coyote problem.

3 But, please, I've got a grandson
4 coming. I've seen a lot of young boys
5 in our club. They enjoy hunting. It's
6 family. Half the time I shock my
7 members. I don't even take a gun to the
8 woods with me, gentlemen. I enjoy
9 walking my dogs. People accuse me of
10 being somewhat eccentric because I talk
11 to the dogs. They're my family. So I
12 appreciate that.

13 Do you have a question,
14 Commissioner?

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No, sir.

16 MR. NELSON: Thank you for the time,
17 gentlemen, and please consider that,
18 that you've got the opportunity to help
19 make this situation better by allowing
20 the dog hunters to hunt in early
21 December and the stalk hunters have the
22 two additional weeks. Thank you for
23 your time.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Russell.

2 The next speaker is -- or
3 Mr. Nelson. The next speaker is Dennis
4 Russell.

5 MR. RUSSELL: Good morning, gentlemen. My
6 name is Dennis Russell, and I am
7 currently the president of the Covington
8 County Dog Hunters Association. I'm
9 here today to speak on behalf of myself
10 and the members of the Covington County
11 Dog Hunters Association and the proposed
12 provision to extend the deer season.

13 We're for it, but I'm not for taking
14 my dog-hunting days away. It seems like
15 this provision is more for the stalk
16 hunter, not for the dog hunter. We have
17 several stalk-hunting clubs around us.
18 We get along perfect with them. We have
19 a good relationship. I believe dog
20 hunters should have the same privilege
21 that the stalk hunters do. We pay the
22 same amount for a license every year
23 just like they do.

1 I've heard for years that dog
2 hunters need to clean their act up, we
3 need to do things better. We got over
4 40,000 acres over there that we've had
5 for five years, and we have not had a
6 single complaint. We hunt GPS collars.
7 We hunt whistle-broke dogs. We do
8 everything right by the book. We don't
9 have any problems.

10 We involve our kids as much as
11 possible. During the youth hunt we
12 invite every kid -- anybody. Anybody's
13 kid can come. We want to get a kid
14 involved in the outdoors. I mean, it
15 ain't got to be a kid in the club. It
16 can be anybody's kid. We just want the
17 kids to be in the woods. The way I look
18 at it, the more you got a kid in the
19 woods, the more you got him out of
20 trouble and you got him off the streets
21 and out of drugs. We want to be able to
22 pass this on from generation to
23 generation. We're doing things right.

1 I think there's several things
2 that's going to be affected by this
3 provision. First off is a financial
4 loss associated with it. You're going
5 to have a lot of your clubs that's going
6 to fold. You've got a working man that
7 gets to hunt a Saturday and a Sunday.
8 When you start cutting days from him,
9 he's not going to pay 13 or \$1500 to
10 come when you're cutting days away from
11 him.

12 You know, us dog hunters, we buy
13 gas, food, ammo, dog food, dog-hunting
14 supplies from our local businesses right
15 there. We got one gas station. They'll
16 be glad to tell you that's when they do
17 their business, during dog season. They
18 don't -- nobody -- they don't hardly do
19 any business the rest of the year. It's
20 during dog season. You know, ten days
21 may not seem like a big deal, but in
22 just ten days a local business can lose
23 several thousand dollars.

1 It is estimated that Covington
2 County's dog hunters boost the local
3 economy more than \$400,000 annual by
4 paying land leases, purchasing dog food,
5 ammo, and gas. The State of Alabama is
6 already losing thousands of dollars in
7 out-of-state licenses because the
8 surrounding states allow dog hunting
9 longer.

10 I have several guys in my club --

11 MS. JONES: Time.

12 MR. RUSSELL: -- they actually buy a Florida
13 license too.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Dennis, and be
15 brief and finish up, if you would.

16 MR. RUSSELL: Okay. The ten days -- we just
17 don't want to see the ten days gone. We
18 want to be able to keep our kids hunting
19 the way they want to hunt. And I ask
20 all of you before you vote on this to
21 please, please, consider this. Thank
22 y'all.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Russell.

1 The next speaker is Jerry Temple.

2 And, Board, we've got five more and
3 then we'll take a break.

4 Mr. Temple.

5 MR. TEMPLE: Good morning. First off, let me
6 say that through the combined efforts of
7 the local chapters and the Dog Hunters
8 Association throughout the state, we did
9 set up that committee last year to try
10 to address the problems that we had in
11 Coffee County. And I think we did that
12 job pretty good, Grady. And I want to
13 promise you that we are going to
14 continue to keep those problems at a
15 very minimum.

16 Just to let you know, also, that I
17 look forward to working with y'all
18 throughout the next several years in
19 Don's absence now. And, you know, if
20 I'm elected as one of the upper echelon
21 positions or whatever, I will be glad to
22 work with all of y'all to preserve our
23 right to dog hunt. That's what we like

1 to do.

2 Now, don't get me wrong. I like to
3 set in a tree myself. I set in shooting
4 houses all the time after dog season
5 goes out, and I love it all. But I
6 don't want to see any of my dog hunting
7 taken away. You know, this extended
8 season may be a good idea for some
9 people. I know -- we don't have that
10 problem over on the east side of the
11 state. And I heard Dr. Moody mention
12 some of the days that they felt like
13 that the rut was coming in in different
14 areas. And I think he's pretty much hit
15 it on the key in some areas. I don't
16 really know about that part of the
17 state.

18 But we saw several harvests of good
19 bucks just in the two-week period that
20 we had of still hunting there on the
21 club that I hunt on. We got 5,000
22 acres, mostly all pine forest. They
23 can't eat pines. We got food plots. We

1 kill good deer. So, you know, just
2 think about that when you get ready to
3 impose these proposals and try to set up
4 new things for us to do.

5 But I really want to thank
6 Mr. Gunter Guy for doing such a good job
7 this morning. I have been to these
8 meetings all over this state, and I have
9 never sat down and watched a
10 presentation like that by any
11 commissioner or anybody on the board.
12 You really done a good job.

13 And, like I say, I just look forward
14 to working with y'all, you know,
15 throughout the next ten, 12, 15 years on
16 this deal to try to preserve dog
17 hunting. Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is John Ward.

20 MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner. I'm
21 from Jasper, Alabama. I hunt in Perry
22 County. We've got a good club down
23 there. We have no complaints.

1 Like they said about these hunting
2 licenses, you know, we all pay the same
3 amount of money to hunt. Is that not
4 right? That's true. You know, why you
5 want to split the season up and do the
6 dog hunters wrong, because we all pay
7 the same amount. Give everybody the
8 opportunity to hunt.

9 We had a good youth hunt this year.
10 We had some kids in there, several who
11 killed their first deer they ever killed
12 in their life. One was an eight-point,
13 beautiful eight-point. You know, let's
14 keep the dog rights going. Because I'm
15 getting older. These other kids are
16 growing up. This is their future of dog
17 hunting. You know, without the dog
18 hunters -- we control the herd, not the
19 stalk hunters. We got a lot of young
20 kids in our hunting club that don't want
21 to set in a shooting house because they
22 get bored. On a dog drive they're
23 happy. And that's what we want to see,

1 our young kids out there hunting,
2 enjoying themselves and having a good
3 time. If you take the dog rights away
4 from us, you're going to lose all of our
5 revenue. Then what you going to do?

6 You know, come on. Let's keep it
7 together. We're all -- we're all
8 supposed to be humans. We're all
9 supposed to be good people. You got
10 some good dog hunters and you got some
11 bad dog hunters. And let's keep it like
12 it was. You know, if you're going to
13 extend any season, you should extend the
14 first two weeks of October of bow season
15 and let it go from there, because that's
16 when it's hot. Deers is not moving in
17 October. So why don't you extend the
18 first day of deer season through October
19 and then take it on into February.

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

22 The next speaker will be Al Schmidt.

23 MR. SCHMIDT: Good morning, gentlemen. My

1 name is Al Schmidt, and I live in Elmore
2 County. My presentation is a follow-on
3 to one that I made before this board
4 last year. The subject is the same. I
5 can tell you right now that my topic and
6 I'm sure you'll find my accent are
7 probably going to tell you that I'm the
8 red-headed stepchild at this moment.

9 I am -- I am here to talk against
10 dog hunting, but not in general. I am
11 not in any way, shape, or form opposed
12 to dog hunting in the state of Alabama.
13 And all of these gentlemen that have
14 come before me here, I have no problem
15 with any of that.

16 My issue is that I am a landowner in
17 Elmore County and have been for some 24
18 years. I have tried to be a good
19 steward of the garden as they said in
20 the prayer. I have a TREASURE Forest.
21 I have a modest acreage. I have been a
22 Helene Mosley winner for the central
23 district some years ago. I've tried to

1 do a good job.

2 I live in an area where the average
3 size parcel within three running miles
4 as the crow flies of my property is
5 probably in the neighborhood of just
6 less than 75 acres. So I hope you will
7 see that trying to run dogs in any kind
8 of an area like that and control them is
9 a very difficult proposition.

10 I have before you an incident report
11 dated 12 January of this year, a
12 sheriff's report, that illustrates the
13 problem that I had this year. And, oh,
14 by the way, that's a continuation of the
15 very same problems I had last year with
16 the same dogs, the same individuals, et
17 cetera.

18 I'm not trying to ban dog hunting,
19 anything like that. But in this
20 particular area of Elmore County near
21 Titus, Alabama, I am asking you to give
22 careful and thoughtful consideration to
23 limiting, restricting, whatever, dog

1 hunting in that particular area.

2 Again, I am not opposed to dog
3 hunting for the individuals in the rest
4 of the state. That is -- I support that
5 completely. But this here is an
6 illustration of what is absolutely
7 intolerable. Three dogs running across
8 a small acreage -- and by the way,
9 gentlemen, please -- they were all
10 collared. They were all being tracked,
11 et cetera. But this is not an isolated
12 case.

13 Thank you very much for your time,
14 and I hope you will make a favorable
15 determination of my request. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Schmidt.

17 The next speaker is Randy Thompson.

18 MR. THOMPSON: I'm Randy Thompson, and I am a
19 landowner in west Colbert County in the
20 northwest corner of Alabama, and we also
21 hunt there.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Will you speak in the
23 microphone, please, sir.

1 MR. THOMPSON: In west Colbert County. That's
2 where I own property, a farm, and also
3 hunting property. And this is where I,
4 like many of you, spend a lot of money
5 sowing greenfields and building shooting
6 houses and that kind of thing for our
7 family and close friends to hunt.

8 The problem that we have is that
9 bordering on our north -- north side of
10 our property we have a hunting club --
11 this is a dog-hunting club -- that --
12 and they only have about a thousand
13 acres in their club. And we have
14 problems with dogs during the time we're
15 trying to hunt, at prime time in the
16 afternoon, dogs running in and out of
17 our greenfields. They're exhausted from
18 the day, haven't been picked up, laying
19 under the shooting houses, laying on the
20 edge of the greenfields and that kind of
21 thing.

22 And I have family members and
23 friends that sometimes don't get to hunt

1 but maybe a couple of times a year. And
2 I'm going to say probably 75 percent of
3 the times that we have all hunted this
4 year there's been dogs running around
5 and around the greenfields. And when
6 you have a son-in-law or grandkids that
7 come and they only hunt two or three
8 times a year, it's very discouraging
9 when that happens, when they -- when
10 their opportunity is blown and their --
11 their day is gone. When that happens,
12 you might as well be at the house.

13 And it's -- also, I'm not going to
14 say -- I'm not going to be like some of
15 the others. I'm not going to call these
16 fellows renegades because I know they're
17 not renegades. But I know it's
18 impossible where these guys turn these
19 dogs loose close to our property lines
20 to determine and to control where these
21 dogs go. They don't have enough
22 property to do that, and it's a
23 problem. And I know there's a lot of

1 ways that -- in other areas where
2 there's larger tracts of property that
3 they can control it better. But where
4 we are -- and I'm also here on behalf of
5 three or four other landowners that
6 just -- I just found out after the
7 season was over from talking to them
8 that they had the same problem with the
9 same hunting club and didn't know it and
10 they don't know what to do about it.
11 But we're getting to the bottom of
12 that.

13 You'll be getting some letters from
14 myself, from them, and then one of my
15 friends that's about to speak next about
16 the same problem. But we'd just like to
17 ask you to consider some measure to help
18 us out with this problem in west Colbert
19 County. You'll be hearing a lot more
20 about it because we found out, as I
21 said, there's a lot more people having
22 the same problem than we knew about
23 until just lately. Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

2 The next speaker is Mike Worsham.

3 MR. JONES: I've got a question.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, excuse me. Go ahead,

5 Mr. Jones.

6 MR. JONES: Mr. Thompson --

7 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

8 MR. JONES: -- what is the name of the -- what
9 is the name of the club that you had
10 issues with?

11 MR. THOMPSON: Blanton Hill Hunting Club.

12 MR. JONES: Blanton Hill. Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Worsham.

14 MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. My dad
15 and I own property in Colbert County
16 north of Cherokee and it adjoins Randy's
17 property. And, you know, we spend a lot
18 of money, like he says, food plots,
19 fruit orchards, roads, just to improve
20 our hunting opportunities there. And in
21 the last few years it's gotten to the
22 point where we rarely have a day that
23 our morning or afternoon hunt is not

1 disrupted by dogs. And I'm not talking
2 about a dog just running through and
3 being gone. They get on the property
4 and mill around all day and end up
5 laying around under our shooting
6 houses.

7 This past season we were interrupted
8 every single hunt except for one day,
9 and that was just multiple packs of dogs
10 in multiple areas running all over the
11 property. We even had -- we've had
12 garbage cans turned over at my cabin on
13 the property. I had a deer head pulled
14 off the tailgate of my truck and dragged
15 out in the woods by these dogs. And we
16 know where the dogs belong because we've
17 caught them and we've taken pictures of
18 the collars, the tags on the collars,
19 and it is the Blanton Hill Hunting
20 Club.

21 They have about a thousand acres
22 leased. They turn multiple packs of
23 dogs loose practically every day of the

1 hunting season. And as Randy said, many
2 times they turn the dogs loose right on
3 the property line like they're trying to
4 push the deer back onto their property
5 from our property.

6 We have -- I filed a complaint last
7 year with the Department of Fisheries --
8 the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
9 outlining some of these issues. We
10 talked to our Advisory Board members
11 this summer. I filed a complaint with
12 the Colbert County Sheriff's
13 Department. I talked to our game warden
14 in November, and he informed me that we
15 had no recourse unless they've done
16 something illegal other than to come
17 before this board. So that's what we've
18 decided to do.

19 As Randy stated, we have no problem
20 with folks hunting with dogs as long as
21 they can control their dogs. We don't
22 think that their rights should infringe
23 on the neighboring properties. So we'd

1 like to petition the board to enact some
2 sorts of regulations in this part of
3 Colbert County just to cut down on the
4 disruptions. Thank you very much.

5 MR. JONES: When did you call the sheriff's
6 department?

7 MR. WORSHAM: It was the last week -- it was
8 the last weekend of the dog season.

9 MR. JONES: Okay. We got a letter stating
10 that there had been no complaints filed.

11 MR. WORSHAM: The officer that took the report
12 was named Wesley Withers. And so he --
13 and there was a report to the game
14 warden. I talked to him on November the
15 23rd also.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland.

17 DR. STRICKLAND: Who's the game warden in that
18 area, Colbert County? Do you know?

19 MR. DODD: The supervisor is Daryl Askew.

20 Captain Johnny Johnson is the district
21 supervisor.

22 DR. STRICKLAND: You think that we can
23 investigate this?

1 MR. DODD: Sure.

2 DR. STRICKLAND: We don't get any complaints
3 from you guys, and that's disturbing.

4 MR. WORSHAM: You will next year. Because we
5 did not know how many people had been
6 disrupted until -- and we just kind of
7 stumbled on it. We started -- Randy
8 mentioned it to one of his neighbors,
9 and he said, well, you know, we've had
10 problems. You need to talk to
11 so-and-so. And it was too late to get
12 them here with us this year, but we're
13 going to enlist their help.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: We'll have -- we'll
15 definitely look into that problem you've
16 had. It sounds like you're having some
17 pretty serious problems.

18 MR. WORSHAM: We are. I have friends that
19 just won't hunt anymore because they
20 know they're going to get up early, go
21 get in the stand, and the dogs are going
22 to camp out under the stand. John
23 has -- one of my buddies here with me

1 has a picture of a dog laying down under
2 his tree stand taking a nap.

3 DR. STRICKLAND: Mike, we appreciate you
4 coming.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker and final
6 will be Mr. Steve Pierce.

7 MR. PIERCE: First of all, I like to get the
8 good out before we get to the bad and
9 the ugly.

10 Thank y'all very much, gentlemen,
11 for the new game warden. He's not new,
12 but he's new this year down in Covington
13 County, Mr. Patrick Norris. He's done a
14 fantastic job. He's a fantastic
15 gentleman, and we certainly appreciate
16 him.

17 Sir, I'm not totally against dog
18 hunting, like you know, but you've got
19 clubs and we got members -- and I had
20 one of our game wardens in the truck
21 with me and he's here today, Mr. Randall
22 Lee. And, yeah, I was a little rough on
23 him.

1 So, Randall, I apologize for being a
2 little rough on you when I had you in
3 the truck with me, but didn't tell you
4 nothing but the truth.

5 All the people that's in the hunting
6 club close to where I live are not bad
7 people by no means. They're mostly real
8 good people. But like anywhere else,
9 you got a few bad apples that rots the
10 whole barrel.

11 Go over there. I'm over in a deer
12 stand, in a shooting house. I hear a
13 shot go off. I'm not totally stupid --
14 mostly, but not totally. I get out and
15 come around the road. Right in the
16 center of the county road there's a pile
17 of blood. I don't mean a little pile.
18 I'm not totally stupid.

19 I called the game warden, the first
20 time Mr. Randall -- I met him. He come
21 down. He took a ride in my personal
22 vehicle. We went around looking at it.
23 I didn't say what. I asked his opinion

1 what happened there. He said that's
2 where the deer was shot. Thank you.

3 It don't take a rocket scientist to
4 figure it out what some of these people
5 are doing. It's not all of them by no
6 means. It's just a few. But I want to
7 thank you because the two game wardens
8 we have down there now are putting out
9 some effort, and at least we can get
10 them when we try to call them. And I
11 appreciate it very much.

12 But this kind of stuff, you show it
13 to them. I know they can't do nothing
14 if they don't catch them. But,
15 gentlemen, please let them have a little
16 bit more time to -- that they know when
17 they need to be out there. Let them
18 work that area a little bit. You got
19 stuff like this going on. You go over
20 here on private land -- yeah, they got
21 over 5,000 acres in one block down there
22 to dog hunt. They get their dogs over
23 there and they jump over here on

1 somebody else's -- way across private
2 property. Don't nobody care about their
3 dogs coming through private property.
4 But when they get up there and they're
5 less than 25 yards from the property
6 line to turn the durn things out or they
7 get over here on private property to run
8 through -- to run through toward theirs,
9 you know, that's kind of irritating.

10 MS. JONES: Time.

11 MR. PIERCE: Gentlemen, appreciate you.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you. The board will
13 stand recessed until 12:15. We will
14 convene back promptly.

15 (A brief recess was taken.)

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
17 business is the Advisory Board's
18 district reports. And I'd like to start
19 with District 1. Dr. Shipp is not
20 here. We will leave it to Mr. Hatley.
21 Mr. Hatley.

22 MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 District 1 this year was very, very

1 quiet for a change until someone leaked
2 to the Mobile Press Register that we
3 were going to have an extended deer
4 season, and after that -- I can't use
5 the vernacular that I would like to, but
6 all hell broke loose after that and
7 things have not been the same since.

8 But, seriously, from all reports we
9 had a great deer season without many,
10 many problems. And Dr. Shipp, of
11 course, handles our fisheries, and he's
12 not here. But from the hunting
13 standpoint, all went very well, I think.

14 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Hogs

15 continuing to be a problem in your area?

16 MR. HATLEY: Hogs continue to be a problem,

17 yes. We probably have over a thousand
18 on our particular piece of land. I
19 brought out -- I kept up with it for a
20 while. 119 that we shot and brought
21 back to the camp. I killed 58 myself.
22 And we trap them, we run with dogs, and
23 we do everything we can. And some

1 gentleman here said earlier that you
2 need to kill 70 percent. You can kill
3 85 percent every year. You can't make a
4 dent in the population.

5 Yes, they're a problem. Come down
6 and try to help me plant and bush-hog
7 for a while. But, no, they're a
8 tremendous problem, and I wish there was
9 something that we could do to address
10 that problem other than just trying to
11 shoot them. Somebody gave me 170 --

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hatley, Hatley, Hatley,
13 that's enough. We're done.

14 MR. HATLEY. Y'all need to know about that.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, District 2.

16 Everybody wants to go home sometime.

17 MR. HARTZOG: I yield my time to Number 1.

18 MR. HATLEY: You brought up the hog hunting.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All I wanted was the short
20 answer.

21 Mr. Hartzog, District 2.

22 MR. HARTZOG: Before I give my district
23 report, I want to report on something

1 else, and that's -- I want to thank
2 everybody out there that voted for
3 Forever Wild. Forever Wild was renewed
4 by a 76-percent vote of the people of
5 Alabama.

6 And I really want to thank someone
7 that's sitting in this room for his
8 efforts because when it went before the
9 legislature he was the champion and when
10 it went before the people he was the
11 champion. And I want to recognize Tim
12 Gothard for his work he did on getting
13 Forever Wild renewed and passed. Thank
14 you, Tim.

15 District 2 report is hunting season
16 went real good. Thanks to Mr. Don, I
17 only had one complaint from Coffee
18 County, and I really appreciate that.
19 I did have a lot of complaints from
20 Elmore County, and I'm going to during
21 the new business make a recommendation
22 on that.

23 I want to thank Chuck and Mr. Jones

1 for coming out to the Barbour County
2 Youth Hunt. We had over 200 kids last
3 weekend, and this is the first time
4 anybody from the department has been
5 able to be there. They really had a
6 good time, had more than 200 kids, and
7 that's what it's about.

8 The dove season, I'm going to make a
9 recommendation on dove season. But
10 overall the Barbour County deer are in
11 good shape. The three-point rule,
12 everybody is still all hyped up about it
13 and want to see it stay. So I think
14 that if you ask Bill Gray, our biologist
15 for the area, the Barbour County
16 Management Area deer herd is as good as
17 it gets. Thank y'all for doing that in
18 the past and continuing the three-point
19 rule for Barbour County.

20 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

21 District 3 is now Mr. Jeff Martin.
22 Jeff is new and did not have time to
23 adequately probably get together a good

1 report, but one of the things that Jeff
2 is heavily involved with is bass
3 fishing. He is a huge supporter of our
4 Alabama High School Bass Association and
5 supports near about all those teams.
6 There's no telling how much line you've
7 given to the high schools in the state,
8 Jeff.

9 But, real quickly, the bass fishing
10 market in the state, up, down, level?
11 How is it doing?

12 MR. MARTIN: It's going great. I was telling
13 somebody back there that I see more and
14 more guides on Logan Martin, if it's
15 crappie fishing, bass fishing. It's
16 really coming on strong. And I think
17 the guy -- the kid's name is Matt Jordan
18 from Auburn -- I hate to say this --
19 from Auburn University. He actually
20 qualified to fish the Classic through
21 Carhartt. It will be -- he's the
22 number-one kid in the nation.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The cream rises to the

1 top, Martin.

2 All right. The next district will
3 be District 4, Austin Ainsworth.

4 MR. AINSWORTH: Yeah. Everything in
5 District 4 went well this year. I
6 received two phone calls overall. So I
7 was telling Dr. Moody -- I was like,
8 well, I guess no news is good news. I
9 said y'all must be doing your job well.
10 So everybody on Lake Gunter'sville seems
11 to be catching big bass, lots of
12 crappie. So the fisheries seem to be
13 healthy. And thanks to the Conservation
14 Department. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Austin.

16 Dr. Moody appreciates the new title
17 also.

18 District 5, Mr. Raymond Jones.

19 MR. JONES: Thank you. District 5 was also
20 relatively quiet this year. We did
21 field several calls from Colbert
22 County. We addressed some of that today
23 and appreciate what's happening with the

1 Dog Hunters Association and the folks
2 from Colbert County right now.

3 Duck hunting in north Alabama was
4 good. As expected, it was not
5 spectacular. Gadwalls were the duck of
6 choice mainly -- not the choice. That's
7 the main duck that was there. The
8 mallards were noticeably absent, and
9 that was a little disturbing.

10 Spoke to several deer processors.
11 You know, kills seemed like it was up.
12 Deer processors did stress that we seem
13 to be, in our area at least, still
14 concentrating on the younger age classes
15 of bucks, which is disturbing
16 considering how many -- how much
17 education we've done in that regard.

18 I want to -- conservation officers,
19 spoke with them. They had some good --
20 not a whole lot of news to report, which
21 is good.

22 I did want to point out Officer Joe
23 Lindsey from Madison County. He won the

1 Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for
2 his response in rescuing a young boy
3 from an airplane crash. Officer Lindsey
4 has had numerous awards given to him for
5 several different acts, and he's a heck
6 of a conservation officer. So that
7 was -- but he's one of many in our
8 area.

9 One other thing I wanted to mention
10 was the Archery in the Schools program.
11 I want to compliment the state,
12 everybody working on that, all the youth
13 programs out there getting the kids in
14 hunting. And that's been a very
15 positive thing.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, also
17 District 5.

18 DR. STRICKLAND: You know, actually, Ray
19 summed things up in District 5 pretty
20 well. But it has been a very quiet
21 season this year in Congressional
22 District 5. Everybody just still loves
23 the buck restriction that we put on

1 them, and it's -- they're starting to
2 see a significant increase in the
3 quality of the bucks that they're
4 harvesting. And I'm hearing that all of
5 the time.

6 And one of the -- I think I'm going
7 to have to echo Bill's statement
8 earlier. I think things were pretty
9 quiet when it started to leak that we're
10 looking at maybe changing our doe
11 harvest quota, and that's something that
12 we probably will hear more about and
13 will require a lot of discussion. And
14 I'm sure that's something that we'll
15 hear more probably from our conservation
16 officers as well.

17 But other than that, it's been an
18 unseasonally quiet year for
19 Congressional District 5. I really
20 don't have much more to add.

21 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,

22 Dr. Strickland.

23 Congressional District 6, Mr. Joey

1 Dobbs.

2 MR. DOBBS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 District 6 is -- a lot of folks in
4 District 6 that encompass and are
5 involved in things statewide, so some of
6 my -- some of the things that I hear are
7 from north and south. And forgive me,
8 Mr. Hatley, and forgive me,
9 Dr. Strickland and Mr. Jones.

10 But one of the things that I hear
11 about is the effect of the coming
12 regulation regarding red snapper. We
13 touched on that. People are even now
14 considering the purchase of licenses,
15 scheduling trips and vacations around
16 those time periods, and it's a big
17 economic impact and possibly lost for
18 parts of the year.

19 People would like to see more
20 dedicated days to youth hunting and
21 fishing, outdoor activities,
22 specifically more days on the front ends
23 of our seasons that are just for

1 children. Now, I think that would be
2 super.

3 Everyone wants to see some sort of
4 an information system. The Commissioner
5 brought that out today. That's fabulous
6 and everyone will be so thrilled with
7 that.

8 A lot of the people I talked to are
9 concerned over predation. The problem
10 is they don't understand whether there
11 is or isn't any impact. And we don't
12 know yet, but we will. They want to
13 know how it affects our wildlife, and
14 they're concerned or wonder if there
15 will be specific times that they can
16 coyote hunt and hog hunt or how those
17 will change.

18 Also, I hear from several people
19 that they feel that our deer herd is in
20 decline. I think that that is
21 personally -- or I think that is from
22 personal observation only. There are no
23 statistics to my knowledge that that's

1 the case.

2 One of the things that's a real hot
3 button is to further define the law and
4 enforcement regarding the distance and
5 direction as relates to supplemental
6 feeding. Everybody is confused and
7 afraid and it foots to several fronts,
8 one of those being trapping hogs, so --
9 and that's in a letter that I received
10 late.

11 Also, people are questioning -- and
12 I think we've answered the question
13 now -- what will be addressed in some of
14 the information that we've gotten about
15 the proper practices and rules for
16 planting wheat. And that's important to
17 everybody, and we've heard from people
18 today about that.

19 Everybody -- as the whole panel, the
20 whole group has said, the whole board,
21 everybody is most complimentary of the
22 three-buck rule and the current antler
23 requirements. Everybody indicates that

1 they've seen larger deer and are
2 planning to participate more than they
3 have in the past in the deer management
4 programs that the state and private
5 groups offer. Some would even like to
6 see more stricter rules regarding antler
7 size.

8 The few processors that I have
9 spoken to or been to -- I didn't kill
10 any deer, but I just stopped by.
11 They've got -- reported they had large
12 antlers, large deer and tremendous
13 harvests.

14 In closing, the people I've spoken
15 with are very excited about the programs
16 and the projects and the studies that
17 are occurring and are so thoughtful of
18 it, and we all know that that will help
19 our department to continue to move
20 forward and increase the opportunities
21 for all of us to enjoy our resources.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.

1 And, finally, District 7, T.J. Bunn.

2 MR. BUNN: Thank you, Dan. Like everybody
3 else said, it was a pretty quiet year.
4 We did have a great deer season in my
5 district even though we didn't have
6 favorable weather. I stopped by a lot
7 of the taxidermists in the area and have
8 seen some great trophies that were taken
9 in District 7. I hunt a lot myself
10 personally in District 7 and was around
11 some folks that killed some really nice
12 deer.

13 I do want to brag on the dog hunters
14 of Greene County. It seemed that this
15 year we didn't -- I didn't have near the
16 complaints and near the issues. I know
17 they -- I really see that they did a
18 fantastic job of getting with the
19 private landowners there and really --
20 really improving their relationship with
21 them, especially -- I want to especially
22 say C & W. I know some of you guys are
23 here. I just want to point that out to

1 the rest of the board that they did make
2 a conscious effort this year to improve
3 their relations.

4 Also, I guess there's a lot of
5 people like me that's excited for turkey
6 season coming around the corner. Last
7 turkey season in District 7 was a great
8 year. I think I see Kevin McKinstry in
9 the back there with Westervelt. And one
10 of my friends, Steven Carroll, is a --
11 or runs Westervelt Lodge, and he was
12 talking about it was a record year for
13 them in the amount of turkeys they
14 killed. And just from my observation
15 and talking to people, it looks like we
16 had a great hatch last year. So that's
17 great for us turkey hunters.

18 And on a final note, I'd like to
19 really encourage everybody to get behind
20 and support this game check. It's going
21 to provide us with great data that's
22 only going to help the department and
23 help us as hunters, and I just want

1 everybody to get behind it. Thank
2 y'all.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bunn.

4 The next order of business is old
5 business. The issues that I show open
6 from the last meeting -- and Dr. Shipp
7 is not here, so we will remain tabled on
8 the Florida pompano motion.

9 There was a tabled motion on turkey
10 season in the six counties that -- for
11 the fall seasons. Mr. Hatley, do you
12 have any comments on that?

13 MR. HATLEY: I'm not bringing it up again
14 today. I would like to forward it to
15 the next meeting, please.

16 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Can you speak into the
17 microphone, Mr. Hatley?

18 MR. HATLEY: I'm talking to you.

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, talk to everybody in
20 here.

21 MR. HATLEY: You asked me the question.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come on, Mr. Hatley.

23 MR. HATLEY: I am going to carry this over

1 till the next meeting, but I will bring
2 it forward at that time as a motion.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you very
4 much.

5 Okay. That's all I show. Does
6 anyone else know of any old business?

7 (No response.)

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next order of
9 business --

10 COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I do something real
11 quick?

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER GUY: I did not introduce my
14 other three division directors who are
15 sitting down there, Patti Powell with
16 Lands, Steve Thompson with Marine
17 Police, and Chris Blankenship with
18 Marine Resources division. And maybe
19 because they do such a good job we don't
20 talk about them. They all gave
21 everybody reports up here from their
22 particular divisions as well as did the
23 other two, and I just want to recognize

1 them as well for the great job they do.

2 I forgot to do that.

3 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely. Thank y'all.

4 Okay. The next order of business is
5 new business.

6 Chuck, your department, in lieu of
7 oral division reports being given at the
8 board meeting, printed division report
9 materials were included in the mail-outs
10 to the board members. Do y'all want to
11 discuss proposed regulation changes
12 today in new business so we can vote on
13 it at the next meeting? Do you want to
14 call on your directors to talk about it?

15 MR. SYKES: Mr. Harders.

16 MR. HARDERS: First of all, let me talk about
17 this alleged degree that Mr. Moody got.
18 It took him a whole hour to fill out
19 that application to get it in the mail.

20 MR. MOODY: Sounds like jealousy to me.

21 MR. HARDERS: I haven't heard back from mine
22 yet.

23 In your packets you have the

1 proposed seasons and bag limits for
2 2013-14 season. And I'll just go over
3 the changes other than date changes.

4 You heard earlier from the
5 Commissioner about the February deer
6 season in selected counties. You saw
7 the map. You saw the restricted
8 unantlered deer season proposed in
9 selected counties. You saw that map.

10 We're liberalizing the seasons and
11 bag limits on bobcat and fox. Used to
12 be a chart. Now we just have a few
13 words to describe that.

14 Included Clay County in the walleye
15 creel limit restriction, the sauger
16 creel limit was reduced, and included
17 Uchee, Halawakee, Wacoochee Creeks in
18 the shoal bass restrictions. Those are
19 the basic changes.

20 One other thing I might mention is
21 the CPI. That's something that needs to
22 be mentioned so that you can vote on it
23 next time.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Please do.

2 MR. HARDERS: In your packets, also, you see
3 the results of our CPI on the license
4 and what's recommended based on the 2.16
5 percent change in the CPI, the
6 increase. Basically a resident all game
7 hunting license will go up 50 cents and
8 a freshwater resident annual fishing
9 license will go up 25 cents. And this
10 is -- back when the licenses were
11 changed, there was a CPI portion in that
12 change, and that allows us to increase
13 the price of license based on a CPI
14 increase. And we look at that every
15 October.

16 Do you have any questions?

17 COMMISSIONER GUY: Let me just say that was
18 much smaller than it was last year. So
19 the increases are pretty nominal. It's
20 pretty insignificant really, but they
21 help us out a little bit.

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Lemme.

23 DR. LEMME: On the bobcat, coyote, and the hog

1 and fox regulations, can you give us the
2 short synopsis of what the tagging
3 requirement is?

4 It says, you know, go to regulation
5 220-2-30. Can you just tell me what
6 that is?

7 MR. HARDERS: That's not a change. I mean,
8 that's --

9 DR. LEMME: Yeah, I know.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a lot of people
11 ask that question about otters and
12 bobcats, and we've talked about that
13 before. But if y'all could just -- I
14 believe that's what Dr. Lemme is asking,
15 guys, if y'all can clear that up.

16 DR. LEMME: Yeah.

17 MR. MOODY: Those fall under a federal trade
18 agreement, and we are mandated -- all
19 states are mandated if we're taking
20 those in commercial trade that they must
21 be tagged because of similarity of
22 appearance to other species that are
23 having issues. Same with alligators.

1 We have to tag alligators as well. It's
2 the same thing. Our alligators are not
3 a problem, but crocodiles in some parts
4 of the world are. So we have to tag
5 those as well. But it's a federal trade
6 agreement, and it was -- this was done
7 under treaty agreement with mostly the
8 European market.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: And I believe people have
10 14 days. Isn't that right?

11 MR. MOODY: I'll have to check on that.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: I believe that's correct,
13 that there's 14 days they have to obtain
14 that seal and the animal be sealed.

15 DR. LEMME: So that only pertains if they're
16 putting the animal into the trade?

17 MR. MOODY: That's right.

18 DR. LEMME: If they're just shooting them for
19 their own use, then there's nothing.
20 Okay. That clarifies because that's
21 probably one of the most constant
22 questions we get. Thank you, Gary.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Strickland.

1 DR. STRICKLAND: Gary, could you elaborate to
2 the board basically on the fairly
3 drastic changes in the doe harvest limit
4 in certain areas in northern Alabama,
5 basically what made up that decision,
6 how did you make that decision, and just
7 a little more information?

8 MR. MOODY: I think there was a handout in
9 your packet. I think it got to your
10 packet.

11 But, anyway, it was a -- from a lot
12 of input from our staff and listening to
13 what the public is telling them and what
14 they're hearing about deer populations
15 in that particular area of the state,
16 from some public involvement meetings
17 that we had all across the state, but
18 especially -- we had representatives
19 from every county in those public
20 involvement meetings listening to what
21 they had to say. And it was pretty
22 clear in that area -- in that defined
23 area that we were hearing repeatedly,

1 over and over again, that we needed to
2 do something there in that part of the
3 state and then from our staff's
4 professional opinions of them making
5 personal observations and looking.

6 I will remind the board that we
7 understand there are probably a few
8 large landowners within that zone. You
9 cannot get a zone of that size without
10 having mixed habitats and -- but most of
11 that area is -- has a lot of ag lands
12 that do not hold good deer populations
13 and is made up of a lot of small
14 ownerships just because of the human
15 population. So the management
16 opportunities are less than they are in
17 some other parts of the state.

18 But for those few landowners that
19 are big landowners that can manage, if
20 that is not enough time for them to
21 harvest the does that they would like to
22 harvest, the deer management program is
23 available to them. And we have taken

1 the fee off the deer management program,
2 so it's no cost. And they can still
3 have more liberal doe harvest if it's
4 warranted.

5 So we're really not reducing our
6 landowners and land managers. They will
7 still have the opportunity to harvest
8 what they would like to harvest if they
9 would like to do that. But we just feel
10 like we're sending that message that in
11 this part of the state we feel like this
12 is what needs to be done.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: And, Gary, if it's poor
14 habitat, regardless of what you do,
15 you're not going to be able to sustain
16 deer. If it's agriculture with just
17 fence rows, it's just not good habitat
18 for deer. Regardless of what you do,
19 you're probably not going to get, you
20 know, a large population of deer in that
21 area.

22 MR. MOODY: You will not have the population
23 that you will have on some areas, but I

1 think it will help the situation. We're
2 not -- we're not saying that we're going
3 to have a big boom in the population.
4 We're not -- we're not addressing that
5 issue that way. We're just saying the
6 population level is such that we feel
7 like that some reduction is warranted
8 and we need to take this step to look at
9 it at this time. You know, our guys
10 will keep evaluating and keep looking at
11 it. And, you know, the Commissioner
12 indicated earlier these are first steps,
13 not last steps.

14 DR. STRICKLAND: And one other question. Most
15 of that -- and you may have already
16 addressed this. Most of that is
17 privately owned?

18 MR. MOODY: It is.

19 DR. STRICKLAND: Why would we not leave it up
20 to the landowner to make a decision
21 instead of forcing him or not giving him
22 the right to make the decision whether
23 he wants to harvest more does or not,

1 just basically taking that right away
2 from him. Basically if we leave things
3 as it is now, he can make the decision
4 if he needs to harvest more does on his
5 property or not.

6 MR. MOODY: Philosophically I agree with you
7 in one sense, but that's the argument
8 that we made a long time ago when we
9 went very liberal with does and when we
10 went very liberal with bucks. The
11 landowners were in control of doing what
12 they wanted to do even with buck harvest
13 or doe harvest, and we shouldn't need to
14 limit that. But if you'll recall, as we
15 were looking at the buck harvest and
16 should it be limited or not, one of the
17 main arguments was, well, I protect
18 them, but they walk across the boundary
19 line and somebody else shoots them and
20 so I really can't do anything. And
21 we're hearing the same thing on these
22 smaller managed -- these smaller
23 landholdings. Somebody owns 80 acres or

1 a hundred acres. Well, I don't shoot
2 does, but every one that walks across
3 the property line somebody else shoots
4 it.

5 So it's that same argument. It's
6 that same -- you know, just not big
7 enough ownerships there to protect the
8 home range of a deer. So one landowner
9 is not in control of that deer or what
10 that deer is going to do.

11 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All right. Mr. Jones and
12 Mr. Ainsworth, y'all both had asked for
13 comments on this issue. Mr. Jones, you
14 can go first.

15 MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.

16 Dr. Moody, to keep with the title,
17 how are the dates determined?

18 The dates -- it's like December 14th
19 to January 5th. I mean, these appear to
20 be very arbitrary. And in addition to
21 that, I think it might be very confusing
22 to our customer. These people in this
23 room are our customers. And, you know,

1 when you have a date and you have to
2 consult your calendar whether on one
3 side of the road it's okay to shoot
4 today and maybe not tomorrow. Would you
5 address that, please.

6 MR. MOODY: Yeah, I'll be glad to. I'm going
7 to go back in a little bit of history,
8 and then I'll address your specific
9 question.

10 If y'all will recall, it hasn't been
11 that many years ago when we were trying
12 to get the public to understand the need
13 to harvest does and building on. We had
14 zones all over the state, and we had
15 multiple zones and multiple dates. And
16 if you remember, the map was
17 multicolored in the Digest, and that
18 really never caused a lot of confusion.
19 So we think this will not cause any more
20 confusion than the zones did at that
21 time.

22 We picked those dates because those
23 are the dates around holidays when lots

1 of kids will be out of school, lots of
2 people will be hunting, and it will give
3 people an opportunity on the ground to
4 try to have the opportunity to harvest
5 the does they may need and especially
6 get the kids and let kids take advantage
7 of that opportunity when they have a
8 holiday from school.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Ainsworth, any
10 questions?

11 Commissioner McMillan.

12 MR. McMILLAN: Yes. Gary, I wanted to remind
13 you of the discussions we had about the
14 southwest Mobile County turkey area.

15 MR. MOODY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. McMillan.
16 And there is an area in south Mobile
17 County that we had closed to turkey
18 hunting many years ago due to our
19 restocking. And our normal practice is
20 to close an area for five years and
21 evaluate it. And if the turkeys are
22 responding in any kind of reasonable
23 way, we'll reopen it. And the area that

1 Mr. McMillan is talking about has -- the
2 five years has passed and we should have
3 removed that closure. And we would
4 support a recommendation -- we did
5 not -- we just inadvertently left it out
6 of our recommendation to you. But we
7 would certainly accept and include that
8 as part of that recommendation.

9 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Would you like for the
10 board to make that recommendation?

11 MR. MOODY: Please.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: They'll incorporate it
13 next time.

14 COMMISSIONER GUY: Just update that, Gary, if
15 you would, and we'll get it out to the
16 board. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. On other new
20 business, I had -- we've got the does --
21 the extension of the deer season test.
22 Dr. Strickland, you had a comment.

23 DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

1 There's been considerable discussion
2 in regards to an extension of deer
3 season in southwest Alabama from the
4 department as well as from the public as
5 well. And as a result of the
6 discussion, on the next meeting I would
7 like for this board to entertain a
8 motion to extend the season in southwest
9 Alabama into the month of February.

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other discussion on
11 that?

12 (No response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. I have --
14 Mr. Hatley, you've discussed your new
15 business.

16 Mr. Dobbs, you had that to provide
17 for a system of carcass tags and
18 reporting for deer and deer antlers in
19 our deer and turkeys providing the
20 research data benefit. You want to
21 discuss that for the next meeting?

22 MR. DOBBS: I'll be happy to. I would -- I
23 think that the check system and what the

1 Commissioner has put forth today is
2 going to answer that. Is that
3 something, Mr. Chairman, that we will
4 need to vote on?

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We will vote on that at
6 the next meeting if y'all bring it for a
7 motion. So if you're saying that you'll
8 have it at a motion at the next
9 meeting --

10 MR. DOBBS: I will bring that as a motion,
11 yes, I will. I certainly will.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You also had given me a
13 note, work to delineate an area around
14 supplemental feeding that is standard
15 and clear to the hunting public.

16 MR. DOBBS: That is correct. I will work
17 towards a motion to that end as well.

18 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Commissioner, is
19 there any other new business?

20 Mr. Dobbs, continue while --

21 COMMISSIONER GUY: Did we do doe harvest?

22 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Doe harvest has been
23 brought up and talked about.

1 COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. --

3 COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry.

4 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Commissioner.

5 COMMISSIONER GUY: I apologize.

6 Chris Blankenship had told me about
7 a motion, and I completely forgot. So,
8 Chris, could you bring that?

9 MR. BLANKENSHIP: We only have one small item
10 from the Marine Resources division this
11 year. And before I say that, I wanted
12 to tell you thanks for -- that we only
13 have one item this year because you've
14 been so responsive over the last three
15 or four years that we have tried to
16 modernize our regulations and have made
17 some things more restrictive, some
18 things less restrictive in our shrimp,
19 oyster, crab fisheries. And I
20 appreciate that.

21 So this year the only regulation
22 change would be to allow us to match the
23 federal regulations when they change on

1 triggerfish, which would go to two
2 triggerfish per person and then a
3 commercial limit of 12 triggerfish per
4 boat. And then it would add silky
5 sharks to -- as a prohibited species.
6 And those are in your packet. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,
9 Mr. Blankenship.

10 Mr. Hartzog, you had two items.

11 MR. HARTZOG: Two items, yes.

12 If you'll look in your packet for
13 the dove zones in the south, you will
14 see that the recommendation from the
15 department on the last split runs from
16 November 30th to January the 13th. If
17 you will actually look into your
18 calendars, January the 13th is on a
19 Monday in which very few people would
20 have the benefit of hunting. If we
21 changed that date to January the 12th
22 and then allow November the 29th as a
23 starting date, that actually gives us

1 the Friday during Thanksgiving, which
2 would involve a lot more kids and a lot
3 more people being able to hunt. So I
4 don't know what the procedure is for us
5 to change that to be voted on next time
6 that we just move that --

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If it will be discussed
8 this month and they want it included or
9 the board feels it needs to be included,
10 then it will be entertained. The
11 Commissioner is shaking his head "yes."

12 COMMISSIONER GUY: I think we can do that.
13 We'll just take that up next time.
14 We'll let you know if there's any
15 negative feedback about that,
16 Mr. Chairman, but it sounds like a good
17 idea. So we'll do that, just bring it
18 up at the next meeting.

19 MR. HARTZOG: Okay. The second thing is --
20 and I congratulated Mr. Don for no
21 complaints in Coffee County. I
22 continued to have multiple complaints in
23 Elmore County. It failed to pass last

1 year, but I think this year we need to
2 put Elmore County or parts of Elmore
3 County on the permit system. And so I
4 will be bringing a motion at the next
5 meeting concerning that.

6 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. Bunn.

7 MR. BUNN: Yes. It's been brought to my
8 attention some issues in Wilcox County.
9 And I think we need to discuss putting
10 Wilcox County on a permitting system for
11 dog hunting.

12 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Strickland.

13 DR. STRICKLAND: Mr. Chairman, I just want to
14 make sure that on the next meeting will
15 there be a motion -- will you need a
16 motion to vote on the season change?

17 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct. The
18 people that have brought that up and
19 discussed that, we will be expecting a
20 motion out of you at the next meeting if
21 you want to have a motion made on it.

22 DR. STRICKLAND: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You'll have the right to

1 do it --

2 DR. STRICKLAND: I just want to make sure that
3 it's on the record that we want a
4 motion.

5 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. You will have a
6 right to do it then.

7 DR. STRICKLAND: Okay. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's correct.

9 Any other old business that anybody
10 has thought about?

11 Mr. Dobbs.

12 MR. DOBBS: One of the things that was borne
13 out today with regard to dog deer
14 hunting was that it seems, as I listened
15 and took notes, that the clubs that dog
16 deer hunt that have multiple members and
17 multiple acres -- and by that I mean
18 somewhere between 2500 and 40,000 --
19 seem to have no issues. The smaller
20 portions of property with however many
21 members -- I don't know how many -- seem
22 to be the ones that have some of the
23 issues. And I think that's something

1 that we should discuss with staff and
2 then certainly in our next meeting that
3 there may be some credence to requiring
4 some minimum acreage for the protection
5 of the hunters as well as the well-being
6 of the dogs being run on the properties.

7 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Any other old
8 business -- new business?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. With that being
11 said, the next order of business is the
12 date and location of the next Advisory
13 Board meeting. All of those who think
14 that Gunter and myself and Curtis have
15 too much orange and blue, we are looking
16 at either Tuscaloosa or Birmingham,
17 leaning toward Tuscaloosa. So hopefully
18 we'll have the meeting in Tuscaloosa.
19 But we will announce it as soon as
20 possible and as soon as we have the
21 building arranged.

22 Being that there's no further
23 business, this meeting is adjourned.

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(Meeting adjourned at
approximately 12:54 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ALABAMA:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

I, Tracye Sadler Blackwell, Certified Court Reporter and Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Board Meeting on February 9, 2013.

The foregoing 219 computer-printed pages contain a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held.

I further certify that I am neither of kin nor of counsel to the parties to said cause nor in any manner interested in the results thereof.

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This 26th day of February 2013.

Tracye Sadler Blackwell
ACCR No. 294
Expiration date: 9-30-2013
Certified Court Reporter
and Commissioner for the State
of Alabama at Large