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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BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Dan L. Moultrie, Chairman
Mr. N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Commissioner
Mr. John McMillan
Dr. Gary Lemme
Mr. Bill Hatley
Mr. Austin Ainsworth
Dr. Warren Strickland
Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr.
Mr. Grady Hartzog
Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr.
Mr. T.J. Bunn, Jr.
Mr. Jeff Martin

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

Mr. Bussey.

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

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

   Father, today we want to acknowledge that you have left us as tenders of the garden, and we thank you for that responsibility. We thank you for that
privilege. And even though we have
different ideas, different theories,
different histories, different examples
that we go by, we ask that you will give
us the wisdom and the guidance that only
belongs to you, that we would find the
proper way, the right way, and the
correct way to take care of this
beautiful creation you have left us in
charge of.

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

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

Father, we ask that you will bless
this hearing and everything that's said
and done today. In the name above all names, that of your son Jesus, Amen.

(Crowd responds.)

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

(Crowd responds.)

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

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

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

Next I would like to introduce our
Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Curtis Jones.

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

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

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

MR. AINSWORTH: Austin Ainsworth, District 4.
MR. DOBBS: Joey Dobbs, District 6.
MR. BUNN: T.J. Bunn, District 7.
MR. MARTIN: Jeff Martin, District 3.
MR. JONES: Raymond Jones, District 5.
DR. STRICKLAND: Warren Strickland, Congressional District 5.
MR. HATLEY: Bill Hatley, District 1.
MR. HARTZOG: Grady Hartzog, District 2.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good, guys.

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

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

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

(Crowd responds.)

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

(No response.)

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

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

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

Bubba told me that Rick texted him awhile ago and said, boy, it's a good morning to be deer hunting. Bubba texted him back and said, Rick, you're really not supposed to be there, but most of the officers are in Montgomery,
so -- but just don't go tomorrow.

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

Just once or more?

MR. BOATWRIGHT: One time.

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

So on behalf of Governor Bentley, I have a proclamation presentation that I'm going to present Tom. And I'm not going to read the whole thing, but it's
in recognition of his exhibiting outstanding skills as an outdoorsman, consistently achieving multiple high and highest honors in both Field and Stream Total Outdoorsman Challenge and Buckmasters Top Bow World Championship.

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

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

REPRESENTATIVE SHIVER: Tom, from the State House of Representatives, we recognize your skills, and we are proud to present you with this proclamation. It says, whereas, Tom Boatwright of Perdido, Alabama, is a world-class archer and a top outdoorsman who has compiled an
outstanding record of achievement; and,
whereas, notably Mr. Boatwright won the
Field and Stream Total Outdoors
Challenge in 2009 and 2011, he has been
an automatic qualifier for the esteemed
competition since he first earned a spot
to compete; and, whereas, he has made a
top showing in many premier archery and
outdoors competitions through the years;
and, whereas, in 2012 he competed in a
reality TV competition that aired on the
Outdoor Channel and partook in events
that included the Little River State
Park Celebrity Shootout, the Alabama Bow
Hunt with Jackie Caudle, and POC Alumni
Bow Hunt in Kansas, and a Whitetail and
Mule Deer Hunt in Nebraska with Bass Pro
Shops and Allen Treadwell. He has
graced the cover of Field and Stream
magazine and is currently on a
13-episode television show produced by
Global Outfitters featuring Chris Reed.

I want to present you this
proclamation from the Alabama Legislature, and with it, congratulations.

(Crowd responds.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTONIE: Thank y'all very much. Boy, Alabama has got some good folks on TV.

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

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

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

We're very unhappy with the federal
decision-makers on our red snapper season, which is going to be reduced to 27 days. And we do at least get two fish. They were talking about one fish. So it's reduced from 40 last year, which was bad enough, to 27.

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

And I just wanted everybody to know that has an interest in fishing at the Gulf that we're doing everything we possibly can within the restrictions of
the federal government to get there.
And we'll continue to fight that fight.
We're asking our congressional
delegation to try to address it at their
level. And we'll keep you posted. But
for right now, it appears that we're
going to have a 27-day season starting
June 1.

Is that right, Chris?

MR. BLANKENSHIP: Yes, sir.

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

And then, also, that I don't have
on -- up here is that -- I get a lot of
questions about dove season. Dove
season is very important to me. It's
very important to our board. I grew
up -- I grew up as a dove hunter. I
love hunting dove, as many of you do.
And we're -- we're working with the Fish
and Wildlife Service and, also, with our
own folks here in the state of Alabama
to try to make it a little easier to
dove hunt without worrying about whether you're going to get caught or ticketed for something; okay?

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

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

Okay. With that being said, I wanted to talk first about a couple of things we've got going on. We're going
to be talking today about many things,
but the first thing I'm going to talk
about is our reporting of deer and
turkey harvest that we're going to
propose to the board today. And there
are going to be three -- three ways of
doing it. You'll have an opportunity to
do it on an Outdoor Alabama app that
hopefully many of you have seen that
happen to have a smartphone. You'll be
able to do it on Outdooralabama.com,
your computer or your -- you know, some
form of a tablet. And we're going to be
able to do it on toll-free Voice
Response call using your phone. So --
next slide.

So many of you may have -- we sent
out some e-mails during the season,
worked with Alabama Interactive that
helps us -- and with our IT folks who
have been doing a great job. And we now
have -- if you happen to have a
smartphone or an Android, we have an
opportunity for you to have on your phone -- and if you -- it's really pretty neat -- an app.

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

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

Next slide, please.

Okay. So this is the hunting page. You can go to this page, and as you can tell, you can go directly to regulations. So if you're in the field or you're just curious, you can use your phone just to find out what the regulations are. You can get a license on the app. You can actually just go there, apply, provide the information, and buy your license right there just like you can on line. There's a section
for reporting your harvest, and then
there's a section for more links.

Go ahead, Mary Beth.

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

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

And for those that know how to do
this -- and I don't -- you can, I think,
share it from this spot to Facebook and
other places. I don't have a Facebook page. But for those that do and understand how to do that, you can do all that. So you can get your friends involved, people in your club involved, and y'all can share information about your -- about deer or other game that you may have harvested.

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

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

And then we also put on here the feeding time and moon phases for those that like to enjoy that or think that
that is important, which also applies to both hunting and fishing. Sometimes Curtis and I use that because it allows us to get up later. We don't have to get up early in the morning if that moon phase says they don't start moving till ten o'clock. We believe in that. So it comes in handy for me, I'm going to tell you. Anyway, it's kind of a neat thing, and actually it works pretty good at times, particularly if the weather is cooperating. It didn't cooperate much this year.

But the next page, Mary Beth, please.

So this is just a little bit about the "WMAs near me." You can put in -- it will -- what it will do on your phone -- and I'm looking at these ladies that know more about it. But I think what it does, it knows where you are. It GPS's -- your phone GPS's you. So if you go to "WMAs near me" on your phone,
It's going to take you -- on the app, it's got 10 miles, 20 miles, 50 miles or all. In other words, you can pull up either WMAs within those geographic limitations or you can just pull up all the WMAs in the state.

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

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

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

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

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

I think -- how many have we had so
far download that, Julie, just kind of an approximation?

MS. PERRY: Over 5700 for the iPhone.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Just for the iPhone?

MS. PERRY: Yes.

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

Julie, is that about right?

MS. PERRY: That's about right.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So there's a lot more people with Androids and -- but we do have that app. It's just a -- it was a tougher app to develop, I think, for the Android market. But now we do have that on the home page, right, for the Android market to just go there and download; right?
MS. PERRY: Right. It's in the store now, so it's easy to download.

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

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

All right. Next one, please,
ma'am.

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

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

Now, we have some methods that we do it, but it's a little more about doing surveys and then extrapolating those numbers and doing that kind of thing. And we'd like to add a tool -- what I call a tool to the toolbox that's going
to help. And I think it's going to be -- I think it's going to be important to the public because it's going to be of interest to you, and I think -- we've had a lot of people say, well, we need to do tags for the bucks and things, and we hear that a lot. And tags are very costly.

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

What we're going to do here is that -- we're making it very simple. Deer and turkey are the two primary big game that we're concerned with. We're not going to ask you to give harvest on anything else. This is what they do in
other states. It's one of their tools. And we think we can do it down here and be very beneficial.

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

So for deer harvesting, you'll have a license number -- your hunting license number, for instance, that you'll have to put in. Right now we're talking about mobile devices. So, obviously, you'll have to type that in. The gender, buck or doe, whether it's public
or private land, and then select a county, enter it. And you're going to get a confirmation code and that's it.

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

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

All right. Next page.

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

All right. Next page.

All right. That was the app. Here
is -- you can go on line. For instance, maybe you don't have coverage. If you don't have an iPhone or something like that but, say, you have a computer at home, or if it's within 24 hours, you can go to your office or work or whatever you can do. You can go directly to a computer. You pull up the same Website that we talked about, or you can go to Outdoor Alabama and we'll get you there. I think we're going to have this game check icon that you see down here at the lower right-hand corner. It'll be on our home page. All you're going to have to do is click on that icon, and it's going to take you to this.

Once again, same questions. Nothing's different. You just hit report deer harvest if it's deer season, hit report turkey harvest if it's turkey season. Of course, feeding times and moon phases, that's for -- seasonal
harvest report. I think I'm going to talk about that in a minute.

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

Okay. So the seasonal harvest report is going to be what's going to be interesting to you. So in realtime we'll be gathering this information from all the hunters in the state. And then you can go to this harvest report. You can see your own harvest. You can see the harvest by county. You can see the harvest by state. So you can see in realtime basically the number of deer that are being harvested in each county and in the state. And you can, also, of course, keep up with your information. It'll be kept on line. So when you harvest it, you pull up your license number, and you can actually see what -- you know, what you've already done.

All right. Next page, please.

MS. PERRY: That's just the on-line form.
COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. That's just what I was talking about. I was a little ahead of you.

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

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

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

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

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

There will be a -- so you'll have your number. There's a couple of things that we -- we've about got it ready, but you'll have your license number, of course, if you just buy your license
either on line yearly or whatever. If you're a lifetime license hunter, you'll enter that in. And if you are an exempt hunter, if you are under 16 or I believe it's 65 or older or you're hunting on your own land, then what you will do is that we'll have a place where you will go -- just like you do with your HIP for migratory birds, you have to always go if you're hunting migratory birds and get a HIP number. You'll do the same thing for deer or turkey. So that way you'll have a unique number, even if you're under 16, 65 or older. It won't require anything. It's not going to cost you a dime. You're just going to have to go get it just like you do with your HIP. And there will be a HIP or state number.

So if you're one of those exempt folks, this is the only way we can keep up with it. So let's say you've got a 14-year-old, you know, that harvests a
deer. We want to know that he harvested a buck or a doe or whatever he did or how many he did. So we need to keep up with those exempt folks just like we do with anybody else to help us keep up with deer, you know, management.

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

All right. Next -- okay. Most of
this stuff is just general information.

You're either going to either press one or two. So it will say -- if you said -- you know, buck, press one, that kind of thing. You know, the next one, caller will confirm entries with a yes or no. That's really the only time you have to speak. And you'll get two attempts to provide the information. If for some reason it doesn't work after two attempts, it will just move forward and give you a -- give you a confirmation code. Because we're really looking for the information.

So hopefully you will get the majority of the information -- hopefully we'll get all the information. There will always be -- anytime you start something -- a few bugs to work out. You know, we know that. But we think that we -- by the time we do this and we publish this information to you guys it will be worked out real well.
We think we've just about got it worked out. We've been working on it for quite some time now. And we've used models in other states. I mean, no use in creating the wheel. This is the model that most people go with now. So most people don't have tags anymore. They're just way too expensive.

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

(Crowd responds.)

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

That was like Dan said on "Rick and Bubba" the other day, that the hunting season this year was going to end on
January 31st at midnight. He did say that.

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

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

All right. So for those that will buy their license, which is the majority of you, each year on line or at a Wal-Mart or whatever, Academy Sports or one of those stores that sell it, you know, you get -- you usually get it and it's got information -- the left-hand corner is usually what it's got there. We're going to add to that the confirmation number there for the
bucks. So you're not going to get any more bucks this year, obviously, even though what I said. No more bucks. So you'll have a confirmation number. You'll enter that in that area, harvest date.

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

If you kill more than five does, which is, you know, in a lot of Alabama allowed, all you do is turn that paper on the other side, keep it in your possession, and just write it on the back. Because all the officer is going
to do is just, you know, ask you, and all he wants to know is that confirmation number.

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

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

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

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

So what we've got here is -- with our wildlife section and everybody
involved, we have some information on
deer data, fetal studies about when the
rut occurs in Alabama. We have good
information in this area that we -- that
we have a comfort level with that we can
extend the season and we won't hurt the
resource. And we spent a lot of time on
this. And it's not to say there may not
be other areas in Alabama that will
warrant this in the near future, but we
don't have the information nor the data
that's needed to support it at this
time.

Let me be clear. That doesn't mean
that there's areas -- I've heard from a
lot of people and I hear you. I live in
Lowndes County. Just as an example,
Lowndes County, myself included, might
say, hey, we got a late rut in Lowndes
County. I see it all the time. I don't
know, though, that for sure because
I haven't seen any data really collected
in Lowndes County except on one WMA.
So the same thing in other parts of the state. Don't look at maps and think, oh, well, you've got some data here. It may be a little data. You know, a small sample is not going to give you a true picture. We need to get enough data that we get a true picture. And if you're right and it's warranted in that county -- and I'll just use Choctaw for an example right now. We've got a little portion of Choctaw -- but let's say Choctaw or the rest of Clark or Dallas or somewhere else or over in the east part of the state. We'll get there when we have data that supports it.

We don't -- neither -- neither my department, all my -- the folks that work in the department for you nor you want us to make a mistake and somehow damage our resources that are so valuable to us. So look at the glass half full, not half empty. We'll get
there if it's warranted.

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

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

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

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

Now, let me mention this. On
private land -- again, we're not giving you extra bucks. So you're not going to get -- you know, if you've already killed your three bucks, extending the season is not going to do you much good unless you want to harvest does. And I've had some people say, well, we don't need to be killing does. On private land, that's your responsibility. You're supposed to be helping manage the resource -- your land yourself. So if you don't need to kill does or don't want to kill does, don't kill does. On public lands, our staff will be managing the public lands according to what is needed there or what is warranted there. So there may be public lands where we will not allow a doe harvest.

Conecuh National Forest is part of this, and I don't believe there will be any doe harvested on that. I know that for sure. And then on some of our WMAs or other public hunting lands, that will
be managed by our department in accordance with the way they need to manage that property for your best interest.

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

But our staff is working real hard to get the information. We're working, you know, harder than they've ever worked. They're doing, you know, a really good job. And we're going to be working with private landowners who are willing to share information that may have that. We're going to be working with others as well. So every resource we can use, we will use, but we've got
to make sure the information is accurate and justifiable.

Okay. Next one.

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

All right. Next slide.

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

Can we go to that?

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

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

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

MR. MOODY: No.

COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. So this is for private property.
And a lot of it has to do with habitat. We've had some big problems with EHD and that kind of thing up there in that area. And so this is a proposal as well to reduce the harvest -- this is all about managing the deer. It's for you. And the natural resources are dynamic. Everybody knows that. Just like every year is different, the herd is different. You can have a breakout of EHD or something like that. And we need to know about it and react to it quickly or we may make a mistake and overharvest. Turkeys, the same way. Other states have had problems where they didn't realize it till too late.

That's why we want this reporting system, so we can keep up with kind of the numbers in realtime. And if we see a real decline, we can react to it and adjust the season and bag limits accordingly. That's what we're trying to do.
Okay. Is that it?
Okay. Real quick -- and then we'll resume here -- I just wanted to mention that we do have a deer management program. We're going to publish something about our goals and objectives, and the staff is working on that right now. We'll get that out to the public. It kind of -- it kind of follows along with all this, and it follows along with us trying to get out and talk to the public and, also, put in a written form what we think is what you want and what we need to do. And so we're going to try to get that out soon as well.

And the last thing that I will mention is that there has been a lot of discussion in the legislature about this, and we believe -- and I've told my legislative friends, like Mr. Shiver, who I think believe the same thing, that it's our responsibility as the
conservation department for you to handle these things and not let the legislature do it if we're doing it right. So we're trying to -- not do it because of them. They bring it to our attention just like you do. And we're trying to address it in the right way, and I think Representative Shiver and others support us in that.

There's also been issues about supplemental feeding or baiting or whatever you want to call it. And we're also going to talk today maybe and make a proposal about defining area. Somewhat similar to doves, we want to set the expectations for the public in a way that our officers and you know what you can and can't do. So the way to do that is there's no -- there's no problem with supplemental feeding in Alabama as the law stands right now. You can supplemental feed all year long, but you know that you cannot bait to lure an
animal in for the purposes of killing that animal. So that's the law.

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

And I'm not here to make a proposal on that. The board is going to consider public input on that. But we will probably address the issue, which has been -- again, been brought up in the legislature many times. So apparently the legislature thinks it's important enough, what they hear from their constituents, as to what is a defined area. In most cases it's a certain number of yards away from where you're hunting and out of sight. That's just a general kind of rule of thumb about how it's been addressed in other states like
Georgia and Mississippi and others that
don't allow baiting.

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

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

But the point is, we're going to try
to address this. We think it's just
time to do that, clear it up, and hopefully take ownership and control of something that we need to take ownership and control of rather than having to put that issue on Mr. Shiver's back.

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

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

Number one, where is Greg Lein?

Greg, would you stand up. Greg Lein is our new Parks director. We welcome Greg to his job as Parks director. He's got a tough job ahead of him. He's going to be expecting money from Harry to help with the parks which are so valuable to our state and our state's economy.
And, next, we've got a new Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries director. Chuck, would you stand up. Chuck Sykes.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Commissioner Guy

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: If there's anybody standing outside that would like a seat, there's spaces available on the front row.
Commissioner, I saw one -- before we get off all of your presentation, one of the board members looked a little puzzled on your -- on filling out the tags on turkeys, Commissioner. You know, we have an avid turkey hunter, Mr. Hatley, and I don't know if he knew the -- I know he knows the jakes, but he looked a little confused where you put down an adult, Commissioner. So you may want to talk to Mr. Hatley about that.

Thank you for arriving late, Mr. Hatley.

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

The first speaker today is Mr. Pete Barber. Pete.
MR. BARBER: Mr. Chairman, I'll go ahead and waive that. Since Dr. Shipp is on the injured reserve list this meeting, I don't feel it necessary.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you so much, Mr. Barber.

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

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

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

We want to thank the board and the Commissioner for defending our constitutional rights, the last few years especially, by not putting special status on sheepshead, sports -- gamefish status on that, also pompano, also Spanish mackerel, and any other species
that's taken away from the public that comes up in the future.

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

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

We want to increase our oyster bottoms. We want to work with the state to try to get Grand Bay upgraded to a
different water stage working with the board of health. Put the request in this past year to instead of eight-foot level, to get the data to maybe raise it to eight-and-a-half or nine-and-a-half feet so that we can oyster in some of these areas in the future.

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

So keep in mind, keep our people fishing. Keep the resources for everybody, not just one user group. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Act 301 has ten national standards. Let's make sure we split these things up right, whether it's snapper, sheepshead, whatever species. Let the people of the state,
whether in Huntsville or the other parts of the state, continue to enjoy these species. Don't give it more so to one side of the user group or the other side.

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

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. BATES: It's great to be able to cook them seafood too. Thank y'all very much.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
   Randy Blelew.

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

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

   So our harvest is really on a
decline. It needs help for all the
future fishermen -- like he was talking,
for everybody to get to use it. And my
proposal is to cut it down to ten trot
lines, 100 hooks instead of the 500
hooks that they're using, and limit the
days they can go, weekends for everybody
else to be able to fish, the
rod-and-reel fishermens, and just manage it in some kind of way where it's not overharvested and it's for everybody.

Thank y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be Leslie Kilgore.

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

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

There are domestic foxes in the world that are genetically domestic. Their lineage can be traced back to the
'50s, in fact. And, also, there are
tame foxes that exist that have been
raised and bred for many generations in
America. And the domestic ones that are
in Russia, there's a specific dealer
institute that they are interested in
doing this experiment to see how long it
could take basically to mimic how dogs
and wolves eventually came into being.

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

That's a very broad overview. Are
there any specific questions you have?
I know that there's usually a concern about invasive species, and I have addressed that in this packet. I can go into more detail if you would like.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Kilgore. The next speaker will be David Sullivan.

MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you very much. My name
is David Sullivan. I'm from Tuscaloosa County. And, actually, I work for Buckmasters here in Montgomery. I run a nationwide program where we assist people with disabilities and critical illnesses.

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

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

In my packet here I've outlined how blind people hunt. We've had hundreds of them over the years. They hunt with
assistants. They always have someone with them to serve as their eyes. And I'm not blind. Nobody in my family is blind. But if I were, I would want to know that they had the opportunity to hunt and a way to do it that wasn't so expensive or so difficult.

And the two methods that they use right now are an over-shoulder method, which if you'll look in your packet, the first photograph is a sight I came up with, or a bracket, about 20 years ago. It offsets the scope. And it works quite well, but it's hard because the sight -- the helper has to get in an exact position that's behind the shooter. Your setups are limited. The thing is easy to knock off. You can imagine trying to put that in a gun case. But we've also been using some video equipment that actually looks through the scope so the person assisting can help. And this equipment
is 700 to $2,000 apiece.

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

You know, the State of Alabama has done a great job over the years of keeping up with the laws that actually make it possible for people with physical disabilities to get out in the woods, and I just think we need to look at that. There are four states -- their wording is included in the packet -- that specifically have it set up so that blind persons and some other disabled persons can use a laser sight to hunt with. Those states are Florida, Texas, Wisconsin, and Michigan. And in my research I found five other states where anybody could hunt with a laser sight.
But that's pretty much my proposal. And I -- another reason I'm here is I promised a young man -- he had become blind over a medical procedure that went wrong. And his mom went out and bought him a laser sight, and they got to where they could shoot. Then they found out they couldn't use it. And I promised them I'd come up here today and talk to you guys about this.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: We have a question.

Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Are you suggesting just for blind people or what level of disability? You mentioned disability, but --

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, yeah. There are people that use mechanical gun mounts that actually -- people that are paralyzed from the neck down can hunt. They can control it with motors, and they have a switch that does the trigger. It has a built-in safety mechanism. But you can imagine this thing sitting out in front
of you and it has to turn. Well, you can't keep your head lined up on the scope. So we either have to go with a video system or a laser sight would be a lot cheaper alternative for those type people. And I included that in my package there.

MR. JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog.

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

COMMISSIONER GUY: Yeah. I mean, I think this is something that we need to look at and we should look at. And I appreciate him bringing it to our attention. And we could certainly take -- you've done a very good job of providing us the laws from other states. Let us take a look
at that. What I would ask and then we
could present it at the next meeting is
what we think the -- you know, initially
it looks like a very good idea, and I
don't see why we can't do it. But I
certainly want to consult with my staff,
as you would want me to, and let's see
any problems that might exist.

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

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

COMMISSIONER GUY: Sure, absolutely.

MR. HARTZOG: Thank you.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.
Any other questions?

Dr. Strickland.

DR. STRICKLAND: A couple of questions.

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

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

I've even had some kids that, you know, hunt with -- they hunt with an assistant, but they would actually be able to see a green dot on an animal possibly. So, you know, it's just --
it's just another way to get people involved in the outdoors.

DR. STRICKLAND: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.

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

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

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

MR. SULLIVAN: Can I make one more comment?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Yes, sir.

MR. SULLIVAN: I guess -- and another thing to add on to your question, sir, was that how many more people out there are there that might be motivated to get out and hunt if it was a lot easier, you know,
to use some other type of equipment.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

Okay. The next speaker will be Rusty Morrow.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: David had to leave.

COMMISSIONER GUY: He talked to me.

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

COMMISSIONER GUY: Absolutely. Very supportive.

MR. MORROW: At the Life Hunt Classic over in
Dallas County in January I had the unique opportunity to watch a young girl that was blind harvest a deer, and her joy was not any less than what yours or I's would be that could see except she felt it. She was able to put her hands on it. She couldn't see the deer. And she harvested a beautiful deer over there at Sedgefield. But she could feel it.

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

But I would support this not because I'm executive director of the Conservation Enforcement Officers Association but as an individual. I
don't see -- I was in law enforcement
25 years. I don't see anything that
would prevent law enforcement from being
able to regulate it to some extent.
It's a pretty easy deal.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be
Jason Knight.

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

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

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

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

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

I know some of the south Baldwin people like an early season, and I would like to propose, say, nine days/two
weekends for September, October when it's hot and you can't hunt. Shove the rest of the days as late as we can in the season according to the federal regulations when it's cool and the migratory birds are coming in. A lot better hunting. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Rob Constantine.

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

I'm a third-generation dove hunter. I've been hunting birds here for 50 years. And having that many opportunities to hunt, I know a little bit about what it takes to have a
productive hunt, especially when trying to keep our youth involved in hunting.

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

It's so hot and dry in September. It's not very conducive to hunting, especially for the hunter or the dog. They get exhausted pretty easily. I do understand that there's hunters in this state that want to hunt in September because they have an abundance of food available during their local harvest. And I feel that if the board wants to give those folks an opportunity to hunt, nine days encompassing two weekends for September is more than adequate in my opinion.
I've talked to a lot of people that hunt both in Mobile County and in Baldwin County, and none of them advocate 30 days -- a need for 30 days of a season in September. They say two weekends/nine days is more than sufficient.

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

Most of the hunters that I know prefer hunting a more mature bird later in the year when it's cool or cold in late December and January. This is due to the fact that these northern birds don't move south, especially in south Alabama, until we have some blowing cold fronts come through which drops the
temperature and then we have some snow
deposited to the states that are north
of us. Then we get the benefits of
those birds moving south. Once that
occurs, we'll have birds in the area as
long as there's food available for
them.

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

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

MS JONES: Time.

MR. CONSTANTINE: -- enjoy hunting --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: That's all right,

Mr. Constantine. Please continue.

We'll hear the rest of what you've got
to say. Go ahead.

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

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

I'd also like to say that it's impossible for this board to please all
the people all the time, but you guys do
a wonderful job of satisfying most of
these interest groups that come before
you, and I thank you for that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Any questions from the
board for Mr. Constantine?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: Thank you very much.

MR. CONSTANTINE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: The next speaker will be
Lewie Helms.

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

I'm Lewie Helms from Headland,
Alabama. I would like to thank Grady
Hartzog and the Game and Fish for the
opportunity to speak here today. I am
72 years old, born in Barbour County on
a 40-acre peanut and cotton field. I've lived in Dothan for the last 48 years. To me dove hunting is a passion. I love it.

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

Seven years ago I retired and decided it was time for me to give something back. I have committed all my land, leased -- all my land, leased land and free hunting rights land and the needed resources to give boys and girls
a good hunting experience. It is very rewarding to me, especially when at church on Sunday I feel a tug on my sleeve and a young 12-year-old says, are we going to shoot doves this afternoon? Now, that's what dove hunting is all about. But to have a good dove shoot, certain things have got to be done.

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

But, anyway, I'm going to leave it at that. But I'm going to -- that list that I gave y'all last season and a
proposal for this season -- and I'm
going to give you what I think is best
for southeast Alabama. Now, when I'm
talking, I'm not talking Mobile County.
I don't know. But Mobile and Baldwin
County has basically got the same crops
that Henry and Houston has, peanuts,
corn, whatnot.

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

All right. What we think -- and
this is my group. And I've talked to
landowners in Houston, Henry, Dale, and
Geneva Counties. I haven't talked to
many in Mobile, but it sounds like the
same thing down there.

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

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

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

Commissioner.

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

MR. HELMS: Right.

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

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

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

MR. HELMS: Right.

COMMISSIONER GUY: So I'm trying to do -- the department is trying to do -- not just me. The department is trying to do everything we can to make that experience better. And I promise you, we'll take all those comments into consideration. And I think we -- that's what we did this year. We moved a lot more of the season into -- into the
latter part of -- I know Fred is shaking his head. Because we heard y'all's comments. So we are trying to get it, you know, as much as we can and get that later part of the hunt while at the same time for those that want to hunt early, too, try to balance that out as well.

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

But, anyway, in closing -- and I'll be here to answer any questions. But I am a dyed-in-the-wool dove hunter. And
I'm just like that gentleman. I know a little bit about it because I've been doing it all my life.

All right. I'm going to close.

South Alabama dove season should always, always close as near January 15th as possible. Dove shoot season should have as many Saturdays and Sundays as possible and always open Thanksgiving weekend, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. This gives students and youth more shooting opportunities. We should always have our seasons -- maximize the weekends, maximize the holidays.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Helms.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker on the topic -- and I never thought this would be a popular topic at the Advisory Board, and it has taken front stage -- on turtle harvest, Mr. John Harbin.
MR. HARBIN: How's everybody doing today?

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

MR. HARBIN: How's everybody doing today?

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

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

    And we have been in contact with Mark Sasser. He seems to be willing to work with us. My discussion with Mark Sasser and Mark Rouleau on the time of
their visit to my farm was letting the
farmers who have been legitimate in
their paperwork and legally acquiring
turtles shouldn't be penalized for all
the bad people trying to rape our
natural resources.

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

And basically the problem with what
y'all wrote down in this regulation, you
know, any resources out of state you can
get -- it says -- but, you know, the
problem with, you know, catching turtles
in other states is none of these other
states want us to come in these states
because Alabama's shut down. So,
therefore, they don't want us there
because they can't come here to collect
either. And if we buy turtles from
other states, we don't even know if
they're legally acquired; therefore, we
violate the Lacey Act. Not to mention
that everyone knows Alabama's shut down
and they want triple the price of these
turtles we're trying to buy to make
replacements in our farms.

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

But, like I said, I'm a small
business. And, like I said, I'm just
trying to keep afloat. You know, the
way this is, you know, I -- I've got
everything I own sank into this
business. And, like I said, you know,
I'm going to represent most of the
turtle farmers here that, you know, this
is a thing that's going to be here.

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

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

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. HARBIN: I'm almost done.

And, you know, all these people are
killing these turtles off that are --
because we won't go get them, because
I'm not going to break a law with the
state to have this done. And, you know,
these people are killing these turtles,
and that's a waste of our natural resources. And, you know, I just --

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

The next speaker is Tammi Hudson.

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

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

But, anyway, this season I have hunted at Prairie Creek, Dozier, Little River, Fayette, and Marengo. At every
one of these hunting areas I have seen, this year alone, a huge amount of turkeys. And the first year I participated in this program in 2010 I saw some huge gobblers at Little River, and I called and said, you know, there's these big gobblers here, can we spring turkey hunt here? And I was told, no, that only -- the only thing you can do at these disabled areas is harvest deer. That's it.

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

And I just would appreciate that, and I would appreciate if y'all would
just consider that. Because the resource is already there. You've already established who was able to participate in a disabled thing. I just don't see where it would be that much more to allow it to do that.

Also, I've seen other kinds of animals when I've been hunting. I've seen hogs. I've seen bobcats. I've seen stuff like that. This year I saw a huge bobcat at Marengo. And I called and talked to the people there, and they said, no, you can't kill the bobcat. But the gentleman that I talked to said that was a valid point and if somebody would bring it up perhaps the rules could be changed. You know, so I'm just asking if while we're there -- when we're at management areas, they tell us to shoot every hog we see; right? So if we're at a disabled area and we see a hog, to me we ought to be able to shoot it. That's just my thing.
Also, in a few of these areas there's room for some more shooting houses. I mean, they're pretty large, some of them are. Some of them are small. Like Prairie Creek, it's probably not any more room than the three that they have there. But some of us go in pairs. Because if I harvest a deer, I can't load it up myself. And so, you know, I travel with somebody else that also hunts. So we're not sharing the same shooting house. We're using two shooting houses. And sometimes that limits, you know, availability.

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

MS. JONES: Time.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

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

MR. SYKES: Sure.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Moody, is there any -- in Clarke County -- Ms. Hudson, that's where you're talking about?
Is there any plans for opening turkey season in that county, or have y'all looked at that? Isn't that what she was talking about?

MS. HUDSON: No.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: For disabled.

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

MS. HUDSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

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

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

Okay. The next speaker will be Ted Johnson.
MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman, she's already addressed what I wanted to ask.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Mike Everett.

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

But I want to first say how much I appreciate -- as much as I care deeply about wildlife in the state of Alabama, I'm ashamed to say this is the first time I've ever bothered to make a trip up here to attend this meeting. And I appreciate the sacrifice of time and the energy and everything involved in what you guys do year in and year out. And I
want to say I also appreciate the other people in the room that have done like I did today and came up here. It's -- it wasn't easy. There's always things you need to be doing. And I feel like -- just listening to the comments and watching this thing progress, I feel like that there's probably as many different perspectives on what we should and should not be doing with our wildlife as there are people in this room. And I guess that's what makes us all human individuals.

But I think the one thing that we ought to consider in spite of our different viewpoints and the things that we may even bump heads on is that -- the thing that we all have in common -- because I think everybody would agree, if there was some way for everybody to agree that this one way to do everything is the best way to do it, everybody would be on board and support it.
Because we're all here because we care deeply about Alabama's wildlife. And I just want to acknowledge that with anybody who may differ with my viewpoint.

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

If there's anybody here that's not aware of that study, they radio-collared a number of newborn fawns and tracked them for several months or until they determined the fawn had been killed by a coyote. And they had -- they had registered the DNA of the coyotes in the area by the scat they were leaving
behind. So they had a very good idea of how many coyotes and the individual coyotes they were dealing with. And they tracked the lives of the collared fawns.

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

MS. JONES: Time.

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

The other thing --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Hold on just a minute.

Mr. Hartzog.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Can you repeat that one
more time for Mr. Hartzog?

MR. HARTZOG: Well, no. Continue on with

his --

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, okay. That would be

fine. Continue on.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

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

Okay. The next speaker will be James Everett.

MR. JAMES EVERETT: Good morning, gentlemen.

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

And I have grown up my whole life hunting and fishing, grew up out in the country. And I remember hearing the first coyote I ever heard and thought it was really cool. And that was in the
late '70s. And now it sounds like a horror flick when the sun is going down every afternoon. And I've seen the impact that it's made on the deer herd. And we've taken the lid off of the doe harvest completely with allowing, you know, two a day all season long. You know, that's -- that was well and good back in the, you know, '80s before the doe -- the coyote population got to where it's at now, but it's a different -- our deer are dealing with a different landscape now.

So I would like for you guys to keep that in mind as we're making laws going forward. And I've kind of heard some mention of that already, so -- and especially with the northern states with the EHD. You guys are looking at that. And I appreciate that and I want to applaud that and ask that you continue considering maybe taking a look at us backing off of the does just a little
bit. Because if you get the -- get our
deer population down too far in certain
areas of the state, it could be hard for
it to recover with the hogs and the
coyotes coming on like they are.

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

I would like to see the season go
into February a little bit in our county
for a couple of reasons -- in several
counties in southeast Alabama for a
couple of reasons. One is -- and I
heard the dove hunters mention this --
the temperatures. October 15th to
November is just -- it's hot. And so it
doesn't make for the greatest experience
in the world when you're -- when it's
that hot. And a lot of people just
don't bow hunt because of it being so
hot. In February we typically have some
cooler temperatures.

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

MS. JONES: Time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much.

Okay. The next speaker will be
Bobby Brooks.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes, Mr. Dobbs.
MR. DOBBS: -- one question of Dr. Moody.

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

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

MR. DOBBS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you.

The next speaker is Bobby Brooks.

Okay. The next speaker is Nicki Burt.

MR. BURT: Good morning, Board. I'm Nicki Burt. I belong to Two Rivers Hunting Club, which is in southwest Alabama.
We appreciate the extension of the season -- or proposal. We live -- our hunting club is right on the state line. We have approximately ten miles of river, Perdido River, which is right on the Florida line, which means we compete with Florida. And their season continues until the end of February. And, plus, they bait, you know, and we don't. Our club is not really interested in that, but it kind of draws some of our deer off of our lease onto Florida. Perdido River is not much wider at most places than this auditorium. So, I mean, the deer travel back and forth.

Glad these guys are talking about the coyotes. We got a really bad problem with coyotes. We personally as a club not only would like to see the shift, we would like to see it taken away, also, in October to give our fawns an extra week and a half, two weeks,
whatever it's going to be, to help them mature so, you know, the mothers don't take a chance of getting killed and then the coyotes take care of the fawns.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be David Colston.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, that's who left.

Okay. Very good.

The next speaker is Jeremy Dortch.

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

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

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

And, lastly, before I move on, unless I've went over time, I know we have a large coyote and feral hog problem, and I think the challenge for this board is to push the private landowners to allow more hunters in there to hunt them. There's a lot of hunting clubs on private land that hunt deer that won't hunt coyotes and won't hunt feral hogs, but they won't allow other hunters that do to get on those
lands to hunt them. And I think that will help bring down this population.

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be Peyton Langford.

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

And I'm probably the only guy here this morning that's going to talk
against extending the season, because I think if you extend the season you're going to be missing a great opportunity. I think that opportunity may be instead of extending the season, leave it just like it is, but give us an additional season. Give us an additional couple of weeks maybe in February. Make it a buck-only season, four on one side or better. That means it's completely enforceable because nobody can kill a deer if it doesn't have four on one side. They can't take it to the processor without four on one side. And they can't ride it in the back of their truck without the four on one side. So it's completely enforceable. Kind of enforces itself.

Also, the main deal about this, make us buy an additional license or special permit for that particular season. That opens it up to a lot larger area in the state. And what you can do is earmark
portions of those proceeds -- you've got an opportunity to maybe double your revenue in one year. Earmark a portion of those proceeds for like some of this coyote stuff. Find out if coyotes are hunting. Take those special revenues, use them to forward some of the special projects in the state, and folks will be more apt to participate in it.

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

I've talked to a lot of out-of-state hunters. The out-of-state hunters have no problem whatsoever with coming to Alabama. They'd much rather come to Alabama than Florida or Mississippi in February to get to deer hunt. That
gives a big economic boom for Alabama. It gives hunters an opportunity. Everybody would be happy with it, I think, across the board. I know the people that I've talked to in Autauga County would be willing to support it a hundred percent, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker will be Hooper Matthews.

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

Originally I was kind of like -- well, I felt like -- I thought it was going to be added to. And so I guess my concern is I'm a -- like the dove hunter, I'm an avid dog hunter, which we use collars. And I know every time y'all see dog hunters y'all don't want to hear anything.
But, anyway, I guess a big concern if you're going to just shift ten days is what's going to happen to the dog season. Just like the fellow said about the dove hunting and boys coming up to you and telling you how much fun it was and all that. We have 75-year-old men that hadn't done it in years, and they'll come back and say, hey, I hadn't done that in years, it's a lot of fun.

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

I was like him. I was thinking when Harry brought up the extension -- because our property -- we've been on
the deer management program since its inception. The state could come out and tell us how many deer to kill, and I guess my -- if the landowner and land manager -- is if -- as a club or a landowner -- like they always told us to kill a hundred bucks and 150 does, which we never did kill our quota in bucks. And our harvest is way down. But as long as we're not exceeding what your specialists/wildlife biologists are telling us, advising us to kill, an extra ten days shouldn't hurt as long as we're staying within the harvest guidelines that have been set by y'all's trained personnel/biologists.

So I guess my biggest concern is not losing ten days or two weeks of dog season, but also I'm more along the line as long as landowners or clubs are abiding by y'all's recommendations and not overharvesting their deer in the first place, you know, consider just
extending it or -- we try to shoot only
eight-points or larger and all that. So
a big shift I've seen over my lifetime
is people hunt deer now, a deer instead
of shooting a buck. So with all these
game cameras, where 20 years ago me and
my buddies and all that, we would have
just shot a six-point or eight-point,
well, people nowadays are saying, well,
I saw this eight-point, but it's not the
one I've been watching.

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

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. MATTHEWS: Sometimes I think I'm trying to
kill a Canada deer in south Alabama, and
you're just not going to do that. But,
anyway, we just don't want to lose our
ten days of dog season.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Matthews.

The next speaker is Eric Terrell.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's out.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. The next speaker is

Jack Williamson.

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

Mr. Guy, I appreciate all of your
work. And I listened to you carefully,
and you said that you were going to try
to get this implemented and then studied
and make any adjustments that need to be
done. So we're making a great step
forward today, and I am tickled to death
with it. I've spent 12 minutes in six
years asking for it, I think. So I want
to thank you for that.
And I am hearing today a lot of questions being asked that y'all need to turn to some climatologists to talk about our climate changes. That would answer about half the questions in here, and it would answer the question on why the rut has slowly moved back.

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

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

But I certainly appreciate it, and I encourage all the board members, please
pass this recommendation of Mr. Guy's.
It is very important to us. Thank you
for your time.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,
Mr. Williamson.
The next speaker is Philip Hester.

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

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

I am here today to ask you to
consider to expand our primitive weapon season for deer harvest. When I look at the counties around -- the states around Alabama, Mississippi has 11 days, Tennessee has 13 days, I think Florida has 14 days of primitive weapon/muzzleloader season, and we only have five.

And in our situation -- I hunt in Pickens County, west Central Alabama on the Mississippi state line. It would be a great help to us to manage our doe herd, our deer population for -- to take out those deer -- those does early before rutting season comes in, more food left in the woods for the remaining deer, less stress on the bucks during the rutting season, all those scientific reasons. And I would be tickled to death for -- to, you know, limit it to does only. And I would ask you to consider opening muzzleloader season November 1st and run it to the beginning
of gun season. This was one of the advisory group meeting recommendations that we put together.

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

Questions?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you very much, sir. The next speaker is Ken Attaway.

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

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

MR. BAXTER: Good morning. Rick Baxter from
Vinegar Bend, Alabama, Washington County.

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

So the other thing is the dog
season. I am an avid dog hunter. I'm going to get both of both worlds. I hunt in Washington County and Choctaw County north of 84. So I'm a little lucky.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you so much.
The next speaker is Jim Dye.

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

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

Also, people that rabbit hunt with dogs. February is the prime time to rabbit hunt. The weather is just about
right. It's cool enough. With extending the season into February, the rabbit hunters are losing some opportunities to get out and rabbit hunt because a lot of land that we get to rabbit hunt on is deer -- you know, hunted with deer and, therefore, you wouldn't be able to get in there and do that. So it's just a concern there as far as, you know, how is that going to affect that particular aspect of hunting. And, like I said, just some concerns we had. But we just thank the board for their consideration.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Eddie Holder.

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

I've been called a renegade because I'm a dog hunter. And I didn't
understand what a renegade was, so I went to the dictionary. Mr. Webster said a renegade is one who abandons a party or movement to join the opposition, is a turncoat.

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

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

My little grandson went through a thicket with his dad this year and was
out there with my dogs. I had to take a fold-up chair to sit in because I'm too old to stand up anymore. I listened to them go through the thicket, and I heard my son-in-law -- y'all know what I'm talking about, the dog hunters -- he's hep, hoop. I hear something squealing. I say, well, I don't recognize that dog. That's my grandson. He's hunting.

Y'all are -- most of you that have children and grandchildren know what I'm talking about. I get emotional. And I did. I almost cried sitting out there listening to that boy. He's loving that. So when they came out, I'm waiting up at my truck. A little soft briar done cut him on the bridge of his nose. He come walking up there. He said, Pawpaw, I'm give out. I said, well, what about one of them Little Debbie cakes? Reckon that'll pep you up? And he said, yes, sir, I think so.
So he's sitting on my dog box scarifying down that Zebra Cake. He looks over there, and he says, Pawpaw, did I do good?

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

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

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. HOLDER: -- that I'm not seeing.
I'd just like to finish by saying please, please, don't stop us from dog hunting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Holder.

The next speaker is Dick Holley.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Take your time, sir.

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

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

I'm here representing Fayette County. Even though I'm from Tuscaloosa, I hunt all over west Alabama and always have since I got out of the
Navy after the Cuban Crisis. I grew up at 23 years old dog hunting at one of, I think, the greatest dog hunting clubs in Alabama, which was Old West Greene Hunting Club. I hunted over at Dollarhide, which was actually the number-one hunting -- dog hunting club in west Alabama. Old Liberty Hunting Club I feel is number three. It was formed in 1984. It has 4,000 beautiful acres that is mainly 90-percent Weyerhaeuser lease. I've hunted it with Mr. (inaudible), who is present, for the last five or six years.

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

The game wardens, who I really
appreciate and they do a great job,
arrested our -- some of our members,
those renegades, that they were hunting
too close on the road and the renegades
on the road. And I think some of the
people on the board may have been here
at that time. We lost our dog-hunting
rights. That's four years ago.

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

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

MS. JONES: Time.
MR. HOLLEY: Not for life -- may I continue, Commissioner?

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

MR. HOLLEY: Sir?

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

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

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

We have 186 signatures. I'm going
to read this real quick. To whom it may concern --

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

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

MR. AINSWORTH: Thank you.

MR. HOLLEY: Thank y'all very much.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Holley.

The next speaker is Jeff Jeter.

MR. JETER: Good morning. I'm Jeff Jeter from Covington County, Alabama, and I'll be brief. It's basically the same concern
that some of these other gentlemen had mentioned about the extending of the hunting season in south and west Alabama and what's going to happen to our dog-hunting season.

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

And, you know, we -- 331, there's 40,000 acres of dog hunting down there on both sides of that highway. And
because part of our club is on the -- or
the majority of our club is on the west
side, we're going to lose ten days when
the folks right across the road from us
aren't going to lose anything. And it
doesn't seem like a good solution for
the dog hunters.

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

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

We police ourselves. We take dogs
getting off our property very seriously,
and we don't -- we don't allow it. We
don't have any problems with our
conservation officers for the way we've hunted in that area since we've had the -- those clubs down there going. And we just ask that you please look at it very seriously and not take any of our time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The next speaker is Don Knight.

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

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

Also, I'd like to tell you -- some of you will be happy, some of you won't
be so happy -- but this will be my last meeting to speak to you as president of the Alabama Dog Hunters Association. I just got to give it up. We've got a lot of things going for us right now. Our association was way up here. We had so many members. And then when we lost some counties, it dropped down some and leveled off, and this year we're having a spike. We're getting members after members after members.

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

These people that want to do away with the dog hunting or kill the days or
whatever, you're doing the animal rights activists' job for them. Why shut down any part of hunting. It makes no sense. You've done their job for them. Don't do that.

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

If we don't put our young people into hunting, hunting won't exist
forever. In my lifetime -- I'll be 70 years old this year on my birthday. In my lifetime I've seen it come from people wanting you to come and kill the deer to get them off their property to big-time money. Okay. And the big-time money is what's basically hurt all of our hunting. But it's going to happen. It's a natural evolution that when something becomes popular it gets more expensive. So we know we're going to have that.

MS. JONES: Time.

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

Before I go, I have -- well, I don't want to say I have enjoyed working with these boards all the time, but it has
been an experience. And we've got a good experience with this board right here and we thank you. I'd like to see our ten days stay.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, do you have a
comment?

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

MR. KNIGHT: Appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Don.

The next speaker is Susan Morrow.

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

I want to thank y'all first for the more dog days that y'all gave us on the management areas. It has been great for
the kids and us big kids too. We really like it.

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

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

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

And, also, I would like to touch on alcohol and hunting. On a management area hunt that I was on there was a guy
behind me. It was 5:30 in the morning. And I was standing there to get my permit, and he smelled like he had taken a bath in alcohol. Later on that day he come by and was talking with me, and he smelled worse, if that was possible.

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

And, also, I want to talk real quick on Clarke County, the dog shooting. And I understand that it was a small acreage. But these people have done this all their lives. It's wrote in my thing there. And they've never had a problem. They only hunt this land like once a year. And this guy has 60 acres. He had just a few kids and a couple of older guys. And they turned
the three dogs loose, and the dogs got off the property with GPS collars. They got 395 yards coming back to the owners and they were shot. The collars was cut off.

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

And real quick.

MS. JONES: Time.

MS. MORROW: Real quick.

And on the extending deer season, the only thing I have on that is it would -- I guess it will be all right, but please don't take our dog days away
from us. And think about our rabbit
hunters. Thank y'all.

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

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

MS. MORROW: Yes.

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

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

When you come in, we've got --
people just come in and they go to
hunting. Okay. And you don't know
who's down the road or anything. It
needs to be a little bit more
organized. I understand that we have a
problem where we don't have a big area
for parking, but we do have a huge
shooting range there. And I understand that it's been done like this for so long that the people that come by boat would have to come around to get a permit and that there's really no place to issue permits.

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

We have a problem with duck hunters coming in there and duck hunting while we are in there trying to dog hunt. It is a dog hunt day, and we need to make it just a little bit safer so we can take our families in there. Thank
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Ms. Morrow.
The next speaker is Donald Nelson.

MR. NELSON: Good morning, gentlemen. I'm Mayor Don Nelson from Creola, Alabama. And I've had the pleasure to talk to y'all over the years, and I appreciate that once again. I'm also -- my family has over 200 acres in Butler County.

Last year I had the opportunity to share something that I felt like were some success stories we had about using our GPS systems, being able to retrieve our dogs, working with Lieutenant Mike McNeil in that area to go down to zero issues or problems. I know I may have a few people who say otherwise, but we continue to work on those issues there.

This year, to let you know, my dogs were all at home at five o'clock every day because of my GPS's. They work. My club members are going to that because they are successful in that.
I shared with you last year, our club has pumped over a million dollars into leases in Butler County. We enjoy doing that. Last year we paid in excess of $30,000. That's a good thing to do. We enjoy it.

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

Y'all have an opportunity this morning with this proposal. I support extending the season. But you also have an opportunity to eliminate some friction between stalk and dog hunting. I do both. The opportunity to allow dog
hunters to continue to hunt December the 1st through the 10th, whatever the cut-out date is, that diffuses the situation somewhat to allow stalk hunters an additional ten days on the end. So please take that in advisement and consider that. That is a golden opportunity to alleviate some of the problems that y'all have to hear in your areas. I think it's a good opportunity just like the permit system was a good opportunity. So please look at that.

I heard people talking about the coyotes. Just to let you know, I think there's only three ways to get rid -- help regulate the coyote problem. Of course, one is I-65, which we all see roadkill, and other roads around here. One is trapping, which I don't know if that's favorable. But, also, dogs do somewhat help regulate the coyote problem. They will help you eliminate running by hunters. Other than that, I
know of no other ways to eliminate the coyote problem.

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

Do you have a question, Commissioner?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: No, sir.

MR. NELSON: Thank you for the time, gentlemen, and please consider that, that you've got the opportunity to help make this situation better by allowing the dog hunters to hunt in early December and the stalk hunters have the two additional weeks. Thank you for your time.
CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Russell.

The next speaker is -- or

Mr. Nelson. The next speaker is Dennis Russell.

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

We're for it, but I'm not for taking my dog-hunting days away. It seems like this provision is more for the stalk hunter, not for the dog hunter. We have several stalk-hunting clubs around us. We get along perfect with them. We have a good relationship. I believe dog hunters should have the same privilege that the stalk hunters do. We pay the same amount for a license every year just like they do.
I've heard for years that dog hunters need to clean their act up, we need to do things better. We got over 40,000 acres over there that we've had for five years, and we have not had a single complaint. We hunt GPS collars. We hunt whistle-broke dogs. We do everything right by the book. We don't have any problems.

We involve our kids as much as possible. During the youth hunt we invite every kid -- anybody. Anybody's kid can come. We want to get a kid involved in the outdoors. I mean, it ain't got to be a kid in the club. It can be anybody's kid. We just want the kids to be in the woods. The way I look at it, the more you got a kid in the woods, the more you got him out of trouble and you got him off the streets and out of drugs. We want to be able to pass this on from generation to generation. We're doing things right.
I think there's several things that's going to be affected by this provision. First off is a financial loss associated with it. You're going to have a lot of your clubs that's going to fold. You've got a working man that gets to hunt a Saturday and a Sunday. When you start cutting days from him, he's not going to pay $13 or $1500 to come when you're cutting days away from him.

You know, us dog hunters, we buy gas, food, ammo, dog food, dog-hunting supplies from our local businesses right there. We got one gas station. They'll be glad to tell you that's when they do their business, during dog season. They don't -- nobody -- they don't hardly do any business the rest of the year. It's during dog season. You know, ten days may not seem like a big deal, but in just ten days a local business can lose several thousand dollars.
It is estimated that Covington County's dog hunters boost the local economy more than $400,000 annual by paying land leases, purchasing dog food, ammo, and gas. The State of Alabama is already losing thousands of dollars in out-of-state licenses because the surrounding states allow dog hunting longer.

I have several guys in my club --

MS. JONES: Time.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Russell.
The next speaker is Jerry Temple.

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

Mr. Temple.

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

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

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

    But we saw several harvests of good bucks just in the two-week period that we had of still hunting there on the club that I hunt on. We got 5,000 acres, mostly all pine forest. They can't eat pines. We got food plots. We
kill good deer. So, you know, just think about that when you get ready to impose these proposals and try to set up new things for us to do.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you.

The next speaker is John Ward.

MR. WARD: Good morning, Commissioner. I'm from Jasper, Alabama. I hunt in Perry County. We've got a good club down there. We have no complaints.
Like they said about these hunting licenses, you know, we all pay the same amount of money to hunt. Is that not right? That's true. You know, why you want to split the season up and do the dog hunters wrong, because we all pay the same amount. Give everybody the opportunity to hunt.

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

enjoying theirselves and having a good
time. If you take the dog rights away
from us, you're going to lose all of our
revenue. Then what you going to do?

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, sir.

The next speaker will be Al Schmidt.

MR. SCHMIDT: Good morning, gentlemen. My
name is Al Schmidt, and I live in Elmore County. My presentation is a follow-on to one that I made before this board last year. The subject is the same. I can tell you right now that my topic and I'm sure you'll find my accent are probably going to tell you that I'm the red-headed stepchild at this moment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Schmidt.

The next speaker is Randy Thompson.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Will you speak in the microphone, please, sir.
MR. THOMPSON: In west Colbert County. That's where I own property, a farm, and also hunting property. And this is where I, like many of you, spend a lot of money sowing greenfields and building shooting houses and that kind of thing for our family and close friends to hunt.

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

And I have family members and friends that sometimes don't get to hunt
but maybe a couple of times a year. And I'm going to say probably 75 percent of the times that we have all hunted this year there's been dogs running around and around the greenfields. And when you have a son-in-law or grandkids that come and they only hunt two or three times a year, it's very discouraging when that happens, when they -- when their opportunity is blown and their -- their day is gone. When that happens, you might as well be at the house.

And it's -- also, I'm not going to say -- I'm not going to be like some of the others. I'm not going to call these fellows renegades because I know they're not renegades. But I know it's impossible where these guys turn these dogs loose close to our property lines to determine and to control where these dogs go. They don't have enough property to do that, and it's a problem. And I know there's a lot of
ways that -- in other areas where there's larger tracts of property that they can control it better. But where we are -- and I'm also here on behalf of three or four other landowners that just -- I just found out after the season was over from talking to them that they had the same problem with the same hunting club and didn't know it and they don't know what to do about it. But we're getting to the bottom of that.

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

The next speaker is Mike Worsham.

MR. JONES: I've got a question.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Oh, excuse me. Go ahead,

Mr. Jones.

MR. JONES: Mr. Thompson --

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. JONES: -- what is the name of the -- what

is the name of the club that you had

issues with?

MR. THOMPSON: Blanton Hill Hunting Club.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Worsham.

MR. WORSHAM: My name is Mike Worsham. My dad

and I own property in Colbert County

north of Cherokee and it adjoins Randy's

property. And, you know, we spend a lot

of money, like he says, food plots,

fruit orchards, roads, just to improve

our hunting opportunities there. And in

the last few years it's gotten to the

point where we rarely have a day that

our morning or afternoon hunt is not
disrupted by dogs. And I'm not talking about a dog just running through and being gone. They get on the property and mill around all day and end up laying around under our shooting houses.

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

They have about a thousand acres leased. They turn multiple packs of dogs loose practically every day of the
hunting season. And as Randy said, many times they turn the dogs loose right on the property line like they're trying to push the deer back onto their property from our property.

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

As Randy stated, we have no problem with folks hunting with dogs as long as they can control their dogs. We don't think that their rights should infringe on the neighboring properties. So we'd
like to petition the board to enact some sorts of regulations in this part of Colbert County just to cut down on the disruptions. Thank you very much.

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

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTREIE: Dr. Strickland.

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

MR. DODD: The supervisor is Daryl Askew. Captain Johnny Johnson is the district supervisor.

DR. STRICKLAND: You think that we can investigate this?
MR. DODD: Sure.

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

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

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

MR. WORSHAM: We are. I have friends that just won't hunt anymore because they know they're going to get up early, go get in the stand, and the dogs are going to camp out under the stand. John has -- one of my buddies here with me
has a picture of a dog laying down under
his tree stand taking a nap.

DR. STRICKLAND: Mike, we appreciate you
coming.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRE: The next speaker and final
will be Mr. Steve Pierce.

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

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

Sir, I'm not totally against dog
hunting, like you know, but you've got
clubs and we got members -- and I had
one of our game wardens in the truck
with me and he's here today, Mr. Randall
Lee. And, yeah, I was a little rough on
him.
So, Randall, I apologize for being a little rough on you when I had you in the truck with me, but didn't tell you nothing but the truth.

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

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

I called the game warden, the first time Mr. Randall -- I met him. He come down. He took a ride in my personal vehicle. We went around looking at it. I didn't say what. I asked his opinion
what happened there. He said that's where the deer was shot. Thank you.

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

But this kind of stuff, you show it to them. I know they can't do nothing if they don't catch them. But, gentlemen, please let them have a little bit more time to -- that they know when they need to be out there. Let them work that area a little bit. You got stuff like this going on. You go over here on private land -- yeah, they got over 5,000 acres in one block down there to dog hunt. They get their dogs over there and they jump over here on
somebody else's -- way across private property. Don't nobody care about their dogs coming through private property. But when they get up there and they're less than 25 yards from the property line to turn the durn things out or they get over here on private property to run through -- to run through toward theirs, you know, that's kind of irritating.

MS. JONES: Time.

MR. PIERCE: Gentlemen, appreciate you.

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

(A brief recess was taken.)

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

Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTLIE: Very good. Hogs
continuing to be a problem in your area?

MR. HATLEY: Hogs continue to be a problem,
yes. We probably have over a thousand
on our particular piece of land. I
brought out -- I kept up with it for a
while. 119 that we shot and brought
back to the camp. I killed 58 myself.
And we trap them, we run with dogs, and
we do everything we can. And some
gentleman here said earlier that you need to kill 70 percent. You can kill 85 percent every year. You can't make a dent in the population.

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

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Hartzog, District 2.

Everybody wants to go home sometime.

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

MR. HATLEY: You brought up the hog hunting.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: All I wanted was the short answer.

Mr. Hartzog, District 2.

MR. HARTZOG: Before I give my district report, I want to report on something
else, and that's -- I want to thank everybody out there that voted for Forever Wild. Forever Wild was renewed by a 76-percent vote of the people of Alabama.

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

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

I want to thank Chuck and Mr. Jones
for coming out to the Barbour County Youth Hunt. We had over 200 kids last weekend, and this is the first time anybody from the department has been able to be there. They really had a good time, had more than 200 kids, and that's what it's about.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Hartzog.

District 3 is now Mr. Jeff Martin.

Jeff is new and did not have time to adequately probably get together a good
report, but one of the things that Jeff is heavily involved with is bass fishing. He is a huge supporter of our Alabama High School Bass Association and supports near about all those teams. There's no telling how much line you've given to the high schools in the state, Jeff.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: The cream rises to the
top, Martin.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Austin.

Dr. Moody appreciates the new title also.

District 5, Mr. Raymond Jones.

MR. JONES: Thank you. District 5 was also relatively quiet this year. We did field several calls from Colbert County. We addressed some of that today and appreciate what's happening with the
Dog Hunters Association and the folks from Colbert County right now.

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

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

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

I did want to point out Officer Joe Lindsey from Madison County. He won the
Alabama Legislative Medal of Honor for his response in rescuing a young boy from an airplane crash. Officer Lindsey has had numerous awards given to him for several different acts, and he's a heck of a conservation officer. So that was -- but he's one of many in our area.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Dr. Strickland, also District 5.

DR. STRICKLAND: You know, actually, Ray summed things up in District 5 pretty well. But it has been a very quiet season this year in Congressional District 5. Everybody just still loves the buck restriction that we put on...
them, and it's -- they're starting to see a significant increase in the quality of the bucks that they're harvesting. And I'm hearing that all of the time.

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

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,

Dr. Strickland.

Congressional District 6, Mr. Joey
Dobbs.

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

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

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

People would like to see more dedicated days to youth hunting and fishing, outdoor activities, specifically more days on the front ends of our seasons that are just for
children. Now, I think that would be super.

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

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

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

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

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

Everybody -- as the whole panel, the whole group has said, the whole board, everybody is most complimentary of the three-buck rule and the current antler requirements. Everybody indicates that
they've seen larger deer and are planning to participate more than they have in the past in the deer management programs that the state and private groups offer. Some would even like to see more stricter rules regarding antler size.

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

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

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Dobbs.
And, finally, District 7, T.J. Bunn.

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

I do want to brag on the dog hunters of Greene County. It seemed that this year we didn't -- I didn't have near the complaints and near the issues. I know they -- I really see that they did a fantastic job of getting with the private landowners there and really -- really improving their relationship with them, especially -- I want to especially say C & W. I know some of you guys are here. I just want to point that out to
the rest of the board that they did make
a conscious effort this year to improve
their relations.

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

And on a final note, I'd like to
really encourage everybody to get behind
and support this game check. It's going
to provide us with great data that's
only going to help the department and
help us as hunters, and I just want
everybody to get behind it. Thank
y'all.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you, Mr. Bunn.

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

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

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

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

MR. HATLEY: I'm talking to you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Well, talk to everybody in
here.

MR. HATLEY: You asked me the question.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Come on, Mr. Hatley.

MR. HATLEY: I am going to carry this over
till the next meeting, but I will bring it forward at that time as a motion.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. Thank you very much.

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

(No response.)

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

COMMISSIONER GUY: Can I do something real quick?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Absolutely. Thank y'all.

Okay. The next order of business is new business.

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

MR. SYKES: Mr. Harders.

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

MR. MOODY: Sounds like jealousy to me.

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

In your packets you have the
proposed seasons and bag limits for 2013-14 season. And I'll just go over the changes other than date changes.

You heard earlier from the Commissioner about the February deer season in selected counties. You saw the map. You saw the restricted unantlered deer season proposed in selected counties. You saw that map.

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

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

One other thing I might mention is the CPI. That's something that needs to be mentioned so that you can vote on it next time.
COMMISSIONER GUY: Please do.

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

Do you have any questions?

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Lemme.

DR. LEMME: On the bobcat, coyote, and the hog
and fox regulations, can you give us the short synopsis of what the tagging requirement is?

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

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

DR. LEMME: Yeah, I know.

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

DR. LEMME: Yeah.

MR. MOODY: Those fall under a federal trade agreement, and we are mandated -- all states are mandated if we're taking those in commercial trade that they must be tagged because of similarity of appearance to other species that are having issues. Same with alligators.
We have to tag alligators as well. It's the same thing. Our alligators are not a problem, but crocodiles in some parts of the world are. So we have to tag those as well. But it's a federal trade agreement, and it was -- this was done under treaty agreement with mostly the European market.

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

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

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

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

MR. MOODY: That's right.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Strickland.
DR. STRICKLAND: Gary, could you elaborate to the board basically on the fairly drastic changes in the doe harvest limit in certain areas in northern Alabama, basically what made up that decision, how did you make that decision, and just a little more information?

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

But, anyway, it was a -- from a lot of input from our staff and listening to what the public is telling them and what they're hearing about deer populations in that particular area of the state, from some public involvement meetings that we had all across the state, but especially -- we had representatives from every county in those public involvement meetings listening to what they had to say. And it was pretty clear in that area -- in that defined area that we were hearing repeatedly,
over and over again, that we needed to
do something there in that part of the
state and then from our staff's
professional opinions of them making
personal observations and looking.

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

But for those few landowners that
are big landowners that can manage, if
that is not enough time for them to
harvest the does that they would like to
harvest, the deer management program is
available to them. And we have taken
the fee off the deer management program, so it's no cost. And they can still have more liberal doe harvest if it's warranted.

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

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

MR. MOODY: You will not have the population that you will have on some areas, but I
think it will help the situation. We're not -- we're not saying that we're going to have a big boom in the population. We're not -- we're not addressing that issue that way. We're just saying the population level is such that we feel like that some reduction is warranted and we need to take this step to look at it at this time. You know, our guys will keep evaluating and keep looking at it. And, you know, the Commissioner indicated earlier these are first steps, not last steps.

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

MR. MOODY: It is.

DR. STRICKLAND: Why would we not leave it up to the landowner to make a decision instead of forcing him or not giving him the right to make the decision whether he wants to harvest more does or not,
just basically taking that right away from him. Basically if we leave things as it is now, he can make the decision if he needs to harvest more does on his property or not.

MR. MOODY: Philosophically I agree with you in one sense, but that's the argument that we made a long time ago when we went very liberal with does and when we went very liberal with bucks. The landowners were in control of doing what they wanted to do even with buck harvest or doe harvest, and we shouldn't need to limit that. But if you'll recall, as we were looking at the buck harvest and should it be limited or not, one of the main arguments was, well, I protect them, but they walk across the boundary line and somebody else shoots them and so I really can't do anything. And we're hearing the same thing on these smaller managed -- these smaller landholdings. Somebody owns 80 acres or
a hundred acres. Well, I don't shoot
does, but every one that walks across
the property line somebody else shoots
it.

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

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

MR. JONES: Thank you, sir.

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

The dates -- it's like December 14th
to January 5th. I mean, these appear to
be very arbitrary. And in addition to
that, I think it might be very confusing
to our customer. These people in this
room are our customers. And, you know,
when you have a date and you have to consult your calendar whether on one side of the road it's okay to shoot today and maybe not tomorrow. Would you address that, please.

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

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

We picked those dates because those are the dates around holidays when lots
of kids will be out of school, lots of people will be hunting, and it will give people an opportunity on the ground to try to have the opportunity to harvest the does they may need and especially get the kids and let kids take advantage of that opportunity when they have a holiday from school.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Mr. Ainsworth, any questions?

Commissioner McMillan.

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

MR. MOODY: Yes. Thank you, Mr. McMillan. And there is an area in south Mobile County that we had closed to turkey hunting many years ago due to our restocking. And our normal practice is to close an area for five years and evaluate it. And if the turkeys are responding in any kind of reasonable way, we'll reopen it. And the area that
Mr. McMillan is talking about has -- the five years has passed and we should have removed that closure. And we would support a recommendation -- we did not -- we just inadvertently left it out of our recommendation to you. But we would certainly accept and include that as part of that recommendation.

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

MR. MOODY: Please.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: They'll incorporate it next time.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other questions?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. On other new business, I had -- we've got the does -- the extension of the deer season test.

Dr. Strickland, you had a comment.

DR. STRICKLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
There's been considerable discussion in regards to an extension of deer season in southwest Alabama from the department as well as from the public as well. And as a result of the discussion, on the next meeting I would like for this board to entertain a motion to extend the season in southwest Alabama into the month of February.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Any other discussion on that?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Very good. I have --

Mr. Hatley, you've discussed your new business.

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

MR. DOBBS: I'll be happy to. I would -- I think that the check system and what the
Commissioner has put forth today is
going to answer that. Is that
something, Mr. Chairman, that we will
need to vote on?

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Dobbs, continue while --

COMMISSIONER GUY: Did we do doe harvest?

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Yes. Doe harvest has been
brought up and talked about.
COMMISSIONER GUY: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. --

COMMISSIONER GUY: I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GUY: I apologize.

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

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

So this year the only regulation change would be to allow us to match the federal regulations when they change on
triggerfish, which would go to two
triggerfish per person and then a
commercial limit of 12 triggerfish per
boat. And then it would add silky
sharks to -- as a prohibited species.
And those are in your packet. Thank
you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Thank you,

Mr. Blankenship.

Mr. Hartzog, you had two items.

MR. HARTZOG: Two items, yes.

If you'll look in your packet for
the dove zones in the south, you will
see that the recommendation from the
department on the last split runs from
November 30th to January the 13th. If
you will actually look into your
calendars, January the 13th is on a
Monday in which very few people would
have the benefit of hunting. If we
changed that date to January the 12th
and then allow November the 29th as a
starting date, that actually gives us
the Friday during Thanksgiving, which
would involve a lot more kids and a lot
more people being able to hunt. So I
don't know what the procedure is for us
to change that to be voted on next time
that we just move that --

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

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

MR. HARTZOG: Okay. The second thing is --
and I congratulated Mr. Don for no
complaints in Coffee County. I
continued to have multiple complaints in
Elmore County. It failed to pass last
year, but I think this year we need to put Elmore County or parts of Elmore County on the permit system. And so I will be bringing a motion at the next meeting concerning that.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Mr. Bunn.

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: Okay. Dr. Strickland.

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

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

DR. STRICKLAND: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MOULTRIE: You'll have the right to
do it --

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

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: Yes. You will have a right to do it then.

DR. STRICKLAND: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MOULTTRIE: That's correct.

Any other old business that anybody has thought about?

Mr. Dobbs.

MR. DOBBS: One of the things that was borne out today with regard to dog deer hunting was that it seems, as I listened and took notes, that the clubs that dog deer hunt that have multiple members and multiple acres -- and by that I mean somewhere between 2500 and 40,000 -- seem to have no issues. The smaller portions of property with however many members -- I don't know how many -- seem to be the ones that have some of the issues. And I think that's something
that we should discuss with staff and
then certainly in our next meeting that
there may be some credence to requiring
some minimum acreage for the protection
of the hunters as well as the well-being
of the dogs being run on the properties.

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

(No response.)

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

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