

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

Minutes

Thursday ~ January 17, 2019 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Steven Robinson, Chair
Arnold Pitts, Vice-chair
Meghan Di Rocco
Anthony DoMoe
Ray Kabisch

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Anthony DoMoe, Ray Kabisch, Arnie Pitts and Steve Robinson.

ABSENT: Meghan Di Rocco

Jennifer Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present,

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Gerald Lent asked that agenda item 18 moved up before item 7.

Rex Flowers noticed the agenda did not include CR19-12 the non-resident Guided Muledeer. It is Mr. Flowers' suggestion that all hunts have the ending date moved to December 31.

Jonathan Lesperance commented that the agenda support materials were only available two days in advance of the meeting and that did not provide an appropriate opportunity to fully review the materials. He suggested that the dates for making the support material available be standardized to 7 days in advance of the CAB meetings.

Mel Belding concurred with moving agenda item 18 before item 7 and concurred with Mr. Flowers on hunts ending December 31. Mr. Belding recommended that the Board consider a future agenda item to seek redeployment of trail cams in Washoe and Churchill Counties.

4. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2018, MINUTES (For possible action)

Hearing no Board or public comments Chair Robinson asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve the October 25, 2018, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT [For possible action] – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on:*

5-1) January 25 and 26, 2019, meetings in Reno/Carson City, Nevada – Chair Robinson and Member Kabisch will attend the January 25 and 26, 2019, meetings.

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5-2). March 15 and 16, 2019, Clark County – Chair Robinson will attend the March 15 and 16, 2019, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.

6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES [Non-action items]

6-1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Robinson drew attention to correspondences submitted by Back Country Anglers and Hunters about White Pine Silver State trails and Lincoln County issues. The correspondence is linked to an off-road issue in White Pine County, Nevada.

From: karen boeger <kboeger1011@gmail.com>

Date: January 17, 2019 12:18:42 PM PST

To: Robert Cox <rcox802@charter.net>

Subject: NV BHA public comment re: WP Co. Silver State Trail EA

Dear Chairman Robinson and Washoe CAB board,

The Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (NV BHA) requests that you discuss the proposed White Pine Co. Silver State Trail (WP Co. SST) BLM EA, scoping comments due 2/2. In our conversations with NDOW biologists involved in crafting the NDOW comments, we do understand that both alternative routes in the EA have serious wildlife concerns. Deputy Director Jack Robb has assured us that NDOW scoping comment concerns will be described during Director Wasley's presentation at the 1/25 Wildlife Commission meeting (Agenda item 6C). It is our understanding that during the CAB reports at the 1/25 meeting, reference or statement from the CABs can be made on that issue. To that end, we submit to you background information and proposed stances on the SST issue. Our NV BHA involvement on this issue goes back as far as the 2004 Lincoln Co. Public Lands bill.

In advance, NV BHA wishes to emphasize that we strongly support the multiple use mandate for public lands, coupled with the sustainable use mandate. We absolutely understand and are sympathetic to the valid concerns and very real need of rural communities to bring additional economic benefits to their communities. Our proposed proviso is that, before soliciting additional motor focused recreation, sufficient study must first be made of the actual cost/benefits of such additional use, that effective management capabilities be demonstrated and that wildlife impacts are adequately addressed, particularly re: displacement and recruitment. To do so should result in increased benefits & lower costs, especially to wildlife and wildlife habitat.

What is the Silver State Trail (SST)?

A concept for a lengthy designated destination ORV trail, similar to the Paiute Trail established in UT. The idea is to provide both additional ORV opportunity and an additional economic source for rural communities.

The vision of the SST is to extend both north & west through the state, potentially throughout the state.

History of the Silver State Trail:

A SST was congressionally designated for Lincoln Co. in the 2004 Lincoln Co. Public Lands bill.

The SST was proposed for extension throughout White Pine (WP) Co. in the 2006 WP Co. Public Lands bill.

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The WP Co. Commission opposed the designation of the SST in that bill due to wildlife, habitat & livestock industry concerns.

The WP Co. Commission stance was supported by NV Wildlife Commission, NV Cattleman's Assoc., WP Co. Farm Bureau & others.

The WP Co. bill did not designate the SST, but did direct a NEPA evaluation within 5 years.

NEPA was completed and BLM Ely District manager, John Ruhs, declared BLM would not go forward with the SST.

Recent Developments:

In 2017, NV OHV Commission Chair, Greg McKay, encouraged the WP Co. Commission to develop the SST with help of OHV grants.

in 2018, WP Co. Commission approved the SST concept & asked BLM to begin an EA process.

The EA scoping process was announced in Nov. with a 30 day comment period.

Many entities asked BLM for an extension of the comment period in order for stakeholders such as CABs, Wildlife Comm., NCA, etc., to have time to legally comment, given public notice restrictions.

The comment period was extended until 2/2/19.

Documents and maps are available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xPvNT>. Address all written comments to the BLM Ely District Office, 702 North Industrial Way, Ely, NV 89301, and Attn: Project Manager John Miller.

Submit comments electronically at blm_nv_bfo_silverstatetrail_2018ea@blm.gov.

Why is this an issue for all county CABs & the Wildlife Commission, rather than just White Pine Co.?

1. Past NV Wildlife Commission & NDOW concerns (and those of other entities) re: the previous 2006 SST proposal, including a cost/benefit analysis & evaluation of management capabilities, have yet to be adequately addressed. (See historical documents provided in Appendix #1)

2. The OHV Commission minutes of 12/14/17 (Appendix #2) documents active OHV Commission solicitation of the NE NV counties of WP, Elko & Eureka to consider an extension of the SST through their counties, both north to ID and Westward.

3. Potential impacts to our valuable wildlife resources & habitat in NE NV are a concern to conservationists throughout our state, including our sportsmen who value the high quality hunting & fishing in that corner of our state.

We request your discussion of this issue include:

1.) Consider the Washoe Co. CAB submit scoping comments to the SST BLM EA of concerns/questions. Discuss pro/con of requesting a No Action alternative, until such time as wildlife, monitoring and management effectiveness questions can be answered.

2.) Request the Wildlife Commission, at their next meeting, have a presentation from NDOW, including sage grouse & big game biologists, regarding their findings of wildlife concerns re: the EA proposed alternatives.

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3.) Request the Wildlife Commission discuss NDOW concerns and consider submitting an EA comment requesting a No Action alternative until such time as wildlife, monitoring and management effectiveness questions can be answered.

4.) Request the Wildlife Commission ask the OHV Commission to:

a. Issue an RFP call, providing grant \$\$, to neutral scientific bodies (such as DRI, Resource Concepts, ENLC) to produce a cost/benefit study of existing destination ORV trail systems. Entities such as NDOW, the Biodiversity Initiative and SHPPO must be consulted in such a study. b. Prioritize grants to public land agencies to assist ORV education, monitoring, restoration and management. c. Prioritize grants to improve enforcement through public land agencies, NDOW, counties, state. d. Ask: to not further promote such trail systems until studies are complete and management capabilities are in place.

Thank you for your considerations of these questions and concerns regarding the WP Co. SST. Our hope is that, through effective public land management & careful decisions, our valuable NE NV wildlife resource will continue to thrive and provide enjoyment to all Nevadans into the future.

Karen Boeger
Policy Chair, NV BHA

6-2) Overview of the November 2 and 3, 2018, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Chair Robinson noted that he had only attended the November 3, 2018, meeting and that the Zinke memo indicates that states have the right to manage all wildlife on federal land.

Chair reordered the agenda to take item 18.

18. Commission General Regulation 482, Public and Sellable Lists, LCB File No. R192-18
[For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to Chapters 488 and 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation clarifies the authority of the Department to remove specific personal information from any list sold or distributed by the Department or the Department's licensing vendor and makes it confidential. The regulation also simplifies how a person can request that their personal information remain confidential by removing the requirement that the request be in writing.* [Taken out of agenda order]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item to amend Chapter 488 and 502 of NAC that is intended to clarify the removal of certain personal information from the Public and Sellable Lists when the request is submitted in writing.

Jack Robb – NDOW, recalled the 90-pages of regulations and statute changes undertaken that found that NDOW was not offering citizens a means of opting out of certain public lists. Mr. Robb explained that this is intended to address concerns for those wishing to opt out of having their personal information posted. Mr. Robb recalled that citizens previously had the option of opting in or out of having personal information shared when tags are drawn. Mr. Robb noted that the option of opting in

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and out at any time might prove problematic thus the modification is for an annual opt in or out process.

Jim Puryear commented that the proposal appeared to be appropriate. However, it may be prudent to include a City/State or email for contact information. Mr. Puryear noted that recipients can block unwanted email if necessary.

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Gerald Lent read the following into the record:

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WASHOE CAB TESTIMONY 1/17/19 GERALD LENT

NDOW has already violated the law by not publically releasing the names of Successful and Unsuccessful tag applications as required in NAC 502.4208.

By law, in accordance with, NAC 502.211 you could only opt out a SELLABLE LIST.

Now NDOW wants to change this NAC to make all names including successful and unsuccessful confidential.

Listen to this on NDOW's required response for their Small Business Impact Statement sent to LCB:

It is crucial to the Administration of the Department business. wow

I say it is crucial to defeat this regulation change for 95% of Sportsmen that want the Successful and unsuccessful made public.

BUT: it is crucial for NDOW to pass this regulation change to give them the ability to return to their fraud, abuse, and illegal acts and ability to create a monetary incentive for the illegal use of tags — as their Legislative Audit so clearly depicted.

This is what you get with no transparency!

Otherwise why would you want to do something the majority of Sportsmen want!

Therefore vote NO on this Regulation change!

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Transparency is the only way we can make sure Sportsmen get an honest drawing!

Otherwise NDOW can do whatever they want and there will be no witnesses.

If this regulation change passes, there will be no other methods for Sportsmen to see the successful + unsuccessful lists forever.

Thank You

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Mel Belding commented that while he is glad that NDOW is bringing this for discussion he wonders why is it necessary to change language now as NDOW has already done it without asking how their customers felt.

Don Molde noted that transparency is on the rise and that he is opposed to anything that would reduce transparency. It is crucial that the public have an opportunity to understand what is happening and reject things when necessary.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Member Pitts commented that he liked the idea that guides and NGO would have some access to the information for their business but is unsure how he feels about the general public being able to see what he is doing.

Member Kabisch commented that his primary concern is that NDOW and other agencies are not following up on harassment when the public goes after an individual sportsman.

Member DoMoe concurred that there must be transparency and any harassment should be properly addressed.

Chair Robinson commented that it was interesting to find out who drew tags and that this gives an individual an opportunity to determine who can see their information.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member Kabisch, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 482, Public and Sellable Lists, LCB File No. R192-18 and recommended that NGO and Guides be provided contact information and suggested that a study be conducted to determine where it is legal for lists to be completely hidden and when it is appropriate to hide information. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

7. UPDATE ON PREDATOR MANAGEMENT [Non-action item] – *An informational update on Predator Management in Nevada, with a focus on Washoe County.*

Pat Jackson - Predator Management Staff Specialist Game Division, narrated a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) on Predator Management in Nevada. Mr. Jackson explained that the FY2020 Predator Plan is being developed and will be presented at the May 2019 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting for review and approval. The \$3.00 fee generates approximately \$670,000.00 annually. Any surplus funds left after administration, staff and projects are funded is held in reserve for use in future years. Mr. Jackson emphasized that the fund can only be used for projects and related expenses. Additionally, funding is used to monitor ongoing efforts specifically Project 21-02 Raven Removal in Units 011 and 013. Mr. Jackson drew attention to areas impacted by fire, and pointed out Wildlife Services cannot perform removal efforts in wilderness or wilderness study areas until they have completed a new environmental assessment. GPS collars are being used on Bighorn Sheep as there is interest in removing Mountain Lions as needed. Mr. Jackson explained that he works with Chris Hampson on such issues and has indicated that there has been a slight increase in populations. A review of previous projects indicates that some 1,200 predators were removed from 2005 through 2013 at a cost of ±\$800,000.00. The intent is to focus on specific areas

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and that there is a need to remove about 70-percent of the coyote population. Mr. Jackson noted that the federal government shutdown has adversely affected certain activities.

During the discussion it was noted that the drought and habitat destruction by the wildfires might provide an opportunity for more predator control. As the discussion continued, it was noted that it is unclear how the drought and wildfires have impacted predator populations. Other discussion noted that the State of Utah has removed a lot of coyotes and appears to have resulted in an increase in Muledeer populations. Discussion then noted that the use of bounties had not achieved the desired results and had resulted in higher levels of cheating in the State of Utah. It was noted that the State of Utah is expending funds on wildlife habitat improvements. Discussion then turned to depredation for Pronghorn in 014 alfalfa fields. It was pointed out that the removal all gets back to funding.

Chair Robinson expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

8. DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2020 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to the Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Predation Management Plan.*

Pat Jackson – NDOW noted that there were small nuanced changes from the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 plan. Mr. Jackson explained for mountain lion harvests pulled a molar to determine age as well as a tissue sample. The delay in project 42 is access to the GPS data which has been deployed in the eastern and southern regions and the military has taken longer than expected to respond to the data sharing agreement. Mr. Jackson pointed out that leg hold traps are not the best use of the \$3.00 fee and are not funded by predator control funds. Mr. Jackson commented that information on Project 32 is being developed by a Master's student at Utah State and will be shared when available.

Chair Robinson opened public comments.

Gerald Lent commented that there are no deer in Washoe County nor is there a project to bring deer to the area. Of concern is why the study was in the Granites when predation is an issue in Washoe County.

Mel Belding pointed out that report was incorrect in that the majority of the predators taken over a 9 year period in 014 were coyotes with only 43 lions taken. Is it necessary to return incidental lions taken by foothold traps to Units where Sportsmen and women are paying Wildlife Services for the removal of lions.

Jim Puryear suggested that this might not be a good business model having only one trapper bringing animals to NDOW. Mr. Puryear suggested that the funds be used to hire a professional. Mr. Puryear pointed out that the bears are no longer afraid of dogs or humans with residents in smaller towns having to pay to have bears removed from their downtown areas.

Rex Flowers explained that he has no issue with the bounty system he believes specific to this plan as presented that Project 40 has had a response ratio of 50 fawns to 100 adults for 3 consecutive

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years. Mr. Flowers questioned whether 50 fawns to 100 adults is a realistic expectation and emphasized that he is not against predator removal.

Closed Robinson closed public comment and asked for Board discussion or a motion.

During the discussion it was explained that pages 37 and 38 of the Statewide Plan changes can be made to add predator control where needed

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Fiscal Year 2020 Predation Management Plan as presented. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 9. COMMISSION REGULATION 19–05, 2019–2020 AND 2020–2021 BIG GAME SEASONS**
[For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to the proposed 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas.*

Chris Hampson - Game Biologist, drew attention to the latest copy of CR19-05 noting that there had been some minor changes in the last day or two.

Jack Robb – NDOW, stated that the updated version had been distributed to the Board.

Mr. Hampson noted that the only changes were in Muledeer and a lot for elk. Mr. Hampson noted that there were no other changes until the Muledeer section.

There were no board or public comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Kabisch, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19–05, 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 Big Game Season Hunts: 2151; 2251; 2151; 2151; 2251; 2181; 4102; 4151; 4251; 4151; 4251; 4151; 4251; 4651; 4181; 4181; 4281; 4181; 4281; 4181; 4281; 4107; 4481; 4482; 4481; 4407; 3151; Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Any Legal Weapon; 3251 – with the recommendation to split Unit 268 due to high usage during Thanksgiving weekend; 3181; 3281; 8151; 8181; 8251; 9151; 7151; 1107; with the recommendation to managing Unit groups 021 and 022 as separate Units due to the multiple herds contained; 1181; 1331 & 1332 - with the recommendation of managing the Unit Groups 021 and 022 as separate units due to multiple herds and combining early and late seasons to run from October 5 to November 5 for Units 011- 013, 014, and 033; 1331 & 1332 – with the recommendation of managing Unit Groups 021 and 022 as separate Units due to multiple Herds contained and to deny 8181 – Resident California Bighorn Sheep Any Ewe Any Legal Weapon – It is recommended that this hunt be cancelled in order to support Bighorn Sheep population growth.

Rex Flowers recommended that there be no seasons beyond December 31.

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Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Flowers' recommendation that there be no season beyond December 31.

Jack Robb – NDOW, responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about seasons ending after December explained that the cow hunt had extended until January 31 in an effort to reduce herd populations due to habitat issues.

The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

Rex Flowers noted that aerial surveys may extend as late as September 10 and September 20 in 17N would be a better start date.

Jim Puryear drew attention to the Muddies noting that he had found 37 campfires and three ATV clubs enjoying the trails. Mr. Puryear suggested that the season be split to ease congestion. Mr. Puryear explained that it is the quality of the experience.

Mel Belding questioned if there was a change in 207.

There was some discussion about split seasons during which it was also pointed out that some areas are privately owned and one of the largest had been sold to another outfit that views sheep as a non-consumptive resource. Other discussion noted that there would not be an issue with a split season since it would have the same number of tags.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 3251 Non-resident hunt as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

The meeting recessed at 7:38 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

Hunt 9151 - Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Any Legal Weapon

It was noted during the discussion that this resource is shared with Utah and that this is Nevada's year.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 9151 Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep any legal weapon as written.

There were no public comments.

The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

HUNT 7151 - Resident Mountain Goat Any Goat Any Legal Weapon

Chair Robinson noted that he does not believe there are any changes since last year and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

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It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 7151 Resident Mountain Goat Any Goat Any Legal Weapon as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

Muledeer Hunt Junior 1107 and Resident and Nonresident Hunts 1331 and 1332

Chris Hampson – NDOW provided a map (copy on file) of the area and noted the recommended changes for Washoe County Units 021 and 022. Mr. Hampson drew attention to the blue area which represents the most recent wildfires that consumed more than 236,000 acres as well as the black area representing the Paiute Tribal Reservation. Mr. Hampson noted that the combination of Unit 021 and 022 is intended to provide additional hunt opportunity pointing out that one access is gated and locked as it is private property. It is not thought that the deer herds will return for about 5-years.

During the discussion it was noted that it appears a lot of thought went into the recommendations to protect Unit 022 while trying to maintain access. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that there would not be much opportunity if there were no animals present due to the wildfires. Other discussion pointed out that the herds would move to surrounding unburned areas.

Mr. Hampson commented that the season splitting 021 late and 022 early should reduce congestion. Mr. Hampson noted that there is a small resident herd and that there are California deer that winter in Nevada. Mr. Hampson noted that a meeting with BLM had been delayed and that it could take up to two or more years to get proper authorizations to construct a new roadway in that area.

Mike Scott – NDOW, noted that he is unaware of any Landowner Compensation Tags for this particular area.

There was additional discussion about the reasons for an early late split season, it was explained that there is a desire to have fewer people in the field due to the low number of tags. It was also noted that this practice is also a management tool to meet objectives.

Rex Flowers read the following letter from Larry Johnson:

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Washoe County Citizens Advisory Board to Manager Wildlife

Dear CAB Members:

I apologize for my inability to attend tonight's CAB meeting, but I have a conflict with another board meeting on which I must preside. I wish to enter the following comments into the record regarding the proposed combining of Hunt Management Units 021 and 022.

I have lived in the Pah Rah mountains of 022 for 26 years and have witnessed first hand the low mule deer numbers over these years. Unit 022 has a completely different deer herd than Unit 021. Unit 022 has only its resident herd while populations in 021 are supplemented in winter months from the migrating deer out of California. These hunt units should be managed separately. Any proposal to have a late hunt in 022 would be very detrimental to this deer population. Access to wintering areas in this mountain range is readily available allowing an easy harvest of the few remaining post-rut mature bucks already in poor body condition. In addition, the Perry Fire devastated much of the mountain range, further stressing these animals. I am not a believer of executing the remaining survivors.

In summary, I feel this proposal is ill conceived and is not sound management. I urge you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry J. Johnson
5900 Quaking Aspen Rd.

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Washoe County Citizens Advisory Board to Manager Wildlife

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I apologize for my inability to attend tonight's CAB meeting, but I have a conflict with another board meeting on which I must preside. I wish to enter the following comments into the record regarding the proposed combining of Hunt Management Units 021 and 022.

I have lived in the Pah Rah mountains of 022 for 26 years and have witnessed first hand the low mule deer numbers over these years. Unit 022 has a completely different deer herd than Unit 021. Unit 022 has only its resident herd while populations in 021 are supplemented in winter months from the migrating deer out of California. These hunt units should be managed separately. Any proposal to have a late hunt in 022 would be very detrimental to this deer population. Access to wintering areas in this mountain range is readily available allowing an easy harvest of the few remaining post-rut mature bucks already in poor body condition. In addition, the Perry Fire devastated much of the mountain range, further stressing these animals. I am not a believer of executing the remaining survivors.

In summary, I feel this proposal is ill conceived and is not sound management. I urge you to reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Larry J. Johnson
5900 Quaking Aspen Rd.

Rex Flowers believes that 021 and 022 should remain as two separate herds and that combining those will not do anything for the deer. Mr. Flowers also suggested that Hunts 011 -013, 014 and 033 stay the same as the previous year and asked for a single season from October 5 ending November 5.

Mel Belding expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hampson for taking this approach and that he concurs with Larry Johnson's recommendation to manage the herd separately.

Gerald Lent believes that a late hunt should be implemented in 022 and that he has a map indicating a pass that was not burned and is still somewhat habitable.

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Jim Puryear expressed his appreciation for the quality hunt in 021 and recommended the use of the same philosophy in other areas. Mr. Puryear also suggested that the area be treated in the same manner as the Muddies.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Chair Robinson commented that he had not received as many calls on this issue and recommended that this be kept the same as last year and that it continued to be managed as two separate herds as access is limited and difficult in most of the time in this area.

Member Kabisch concurred on the opportunity still there to hunt and number not change access is limited but is also limited in other parts of the state. Member Kabisch recommended that 021 be manager for its herd.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Junior Hunt 1107 with the modification that 021 and 022 be kept as is and not combine those units; Hunt 1331 and 1332 Units 011 and 013 early late seasons be combined running October 5 to November 5. The motion carried; Member Di Rocco absent.

2019 and 2020 Antlerless Elk Landowner Hunts

There were no department or public comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2019 and 2020 Antlerless Elk Landowner Tags as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

2019 and 2020 EMERGENCY BIG GAME HUNTS

There were no department or public comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2019 and 2020 Emergency Big Game Hunts, as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-06, 2020 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTAS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2020 Heritage Tag species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

There was no NDOW presentation.

Member Pitts left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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Chair Robinson opened public comments.

Mel Belding suggested that the Washoe County Board recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners return to the Heritage Seasons from a few years ago where Units can be hunted one week prior to any season opening date. In the past Desert Bighorn season opened July 1 compared to the proposed August 1 opening. Mr. Belding noted that the animals were vulnerable due to lack of water.

Member Pitts rejoined the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Chair Robinson closed public comments.

Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that there had been some mobility issues and that the success rate was 100-percent without any known biological impact.

Mel Belding recommended that the season not open before September 8 as both the Silver State and Heritage tag prices would not be diminished. Mr. Belding noted that an individual can hunt in Mexico for a price of \$35,000 to \$40,000.

A motion by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the recommendations for the Heritage Tag with the following modification that the season not start until one week before the Nelson Big Horn Sheep Season was withdrawn.

Member Kabisch questioned whether that Unit will be closed to the Heritage Tag the following year.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that there are two heritage tags and that harvest is not allowed in a unit with a population of less than 10.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-06, 2020 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas with the modification to Nelson Bighorn to open on September 1. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-07, 2019 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE TAGS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2019 Partnership in Wildlife tags hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item to set 2019 Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quota and noted concern about the PIW for Deer was not a statewide tag.

Jack Robb – NDOW, suggested that the suggestion be taken to the TAAHC.

Responding to Member Kabisch's inquiry, Chair Robinson noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners has an agenda item for matters that should be reviewed by the TAAHC.

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Mr. Robb noted that the TAAHC typically meets the Wednesday before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting.

Chair Robinson closed public comments.

It was moved by Chair Robinson seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-07, 2019 Partnership in Wildlife Tags as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 12. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-08, 2019 SILVER STATE TAGS** [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2019 Silver State tag species, seasons and quotas.

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for public comment.

Rex Flowers suggested that the change suggested for the Heritage Sheep Tag be used to the Silver State Tag.

Chair Robinson closed public comments.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-08, 2019 Silver State Tags with the following modification to open Nelson Big Horn on September 1.

Jack Robb – NDOW, noted that the Silver State would have to hold out a month so as not to occur in the same calendar year.

Member Pitts withdrew the motion. Member DoMoe withdrew the second.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-08, 2019 Silver State Tags, as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 13. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-09, 2019 DREAM TAG** [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2018 Dream Tag species, seasons and quotas.

Jack Robb – NDOW clarified that the Silverstate marries to the heritage Tag and Dream Tag.

There were no public comments.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve Commission Regulation 19-09, 2019 Dream Tag as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

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- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-10, 2019 BIG GAME APPLICATION DEADLINES** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2018 big game tag application deadlines and related information.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Jack Robb – NDOW, recalled the recommendation from the new license vendor and the recommendation to change the application deadlines to the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend.

There were no board comments or public comments

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-10, 2019 Big Game Application Deadlines, as written. The motion carried: member Di Rocco absent.

- 15. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-11, 2019 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND TAG LIMITS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to a regulation to set the 2019 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.*

There were no NDOW, Board or public comments.

It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-11, 2019 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits, as written. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 19-03, 2019 BLACK BEAR SEASONS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to the proposed 2019 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and commented that he supports the Bear season as written.

There was no NDOW report.

Jonathan Lesperance concurred with Chair Robinson in his support of the season as it presents an amazing opportunity to learn about Bears. Mr. Lesperance noted that he suggests changing the opening date to September 1 with indoctrination in June or July.

Chair Robinson closed public comments,

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Chair Robinson noted that he had to return the tag as he was unable to attend the indoctrination class and therefore recommends a secondary indoctrination date that can be used in the case there is a scheduling conflict.

Pat Jackson – NDOW, commented that he could not think of any reason not to have a second indoctrination date.

Responding to Member Kabisch inquiry about whether there are indoctrination classes in northern and southern Nevada, Jack Robb – NDOW, stated that the class is only held in the north. Mr. Robb noted that there is a significant amount of tribal land south of Gardnerville (Nevada) and that the indoctrination class is held so that hunters can attend one day and hunt the next day. NDOW continues to look for ways to make it easier for sportsmen to get in the field.

Member Kabisch suggested perhaps an online class could be considered for all animals.

Mr. Robb pointed out that attendees get a lot of information from other attendees and that an online class might leave many questions unanswered. Mr. Robb noted that July is typically a very busy time for biologists, wardens as well as staff at that time of year.

Chair Robinson suggested moving the date from August 17 to July 27 and keep September 7 dates.

Responding to Member Kabisch's inquiry about turning in a tag, Mr. Robb stated that tags can be returned to NDOW up to the day before the season starts but will not be reissued unless it is turned in a minimum of two weeks in advance of the season opening. Mr. Robb pointed out the staff time involved and the limited resources available in Southern Nevada.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19–03, 2019 Black Bear Seasons with the following modification: Indoctrination to be held Saturday, July 27, 2019 and Saturday September 7. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

17. COMMISSION REGULATION 19–04, 2019–2020 MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AND HARVEST LIMITS [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed modifications to the proposed 2019–2020 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.*

There were no comments from NDOW staff.

Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about prohibitions, Pat Jackson – NDOW, recalled previous discussion with Brian Wakling about the need to have environment for the hunt. There are several different interpretations of that order and it is Mr. Jackson's belief that NDOW's interpretation is the same as Wildlife Services. Mr. Jackson pointed out that trapping is not a legal method for the taking of Mountain Lions.

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Chair Robinson commented that he believes federal regulations CFR Part 24 and Order 4356 and the September 2018 memorandum from Secretary Zinke affirm the authority of the state's primary responsibility in the management of wildlife including wildlife on federally managed lands. Chair Robinson stated he would like to see Unit 033 be included.

Jim Puryear commented that the Coalition of Nevada Wildlife had researched the original Congressional Act which says the Sheldon is an Antelope Refuge that will be managed by the State Department of Wildlife. The 1930's act also says the state will manage wildlife and that the Department of the Interior has indicated that an Environmental Impact Study is not needed.

Rex Flowers suggested that 033 be opened based on Secretary Zinke's comments. It is Mr. Flowers' belief that it is time to do something that benefits the animals in the northern part of the state and provide more hunt opportunities. Mr. Flowers suggested that individuals receive up to three tags.

Gerald Lent recalled a hearing in Portland some time ago about hunting coyotes. Mr. Lent believes that a lion hunt should not occur in the Sheldon unless the Department has the authority to manage the Sheldon.

Mel Belding commented that he had read the Zinke directive and that he has had some discussion with Mr. Wakling. The reason Mr. Wakling indicated he could not act was that he could not find the order number. Mr. Belding indicated he had suggested that Mr. Wakling call the author directly.

Jonathan Lesperance noted that the support material referenced peer reviewed research and that the only research he is aware of noted that it was too preliminary to establish management guidelines and recommended an approach that looked to a future mountain lion management plan before starting to use the genetic research to apply harvest limits on regions or hunt units individually. Chair Robinson closed public comments.

Member Pitts believes that it should be managed and take predators like is done in other areas.

Member Kabisch concurred.

Chair Robins recommended that 033 be added as had been done with the sheep, deer and antelope hunts. While Chair Robinson believes that three tags is a bit light it makes no sense not to allow more.

It was moved by Chair Robinson, seconded by Member DoMoe, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 19-04, 2019-2020 Mountain Lion Season And Harvest Limits with the following modifications add 033 to the open unit group and raise the tag limit from two to three per person. The motion carried: Member Di Rocco absent.

19. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF

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TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the next meeting to be held March 7, 2019.*

The March 7 meeting agenda may include but is not limited to: 1) Presentation on the Nevada Open Meeting Law – Jen Gustafson; 2) Discussion and possible recommendation to reintroduce the use of trail cameras in Washoe County and 3) Options for replanting and feeding of animals in areas devastated by wildfire.

20. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Gerald Lent commended the board for the recommendations and suggested that the representative at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting make sure that the Board members read the recommendations made by the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

Jim Puryear commented that the Congressional Act makes clear that the Sheldon's wildlife is to be managed like the wildlife is managed on the state land surrounding Sheldon. i.e. birds, big game and predators.

21. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

AS AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON MARCH 7, 2019.